BLACKOUT

KARAKURI

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

5

DELCOURT

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

KARAKURI CIRCUS TOME 5 INDEX

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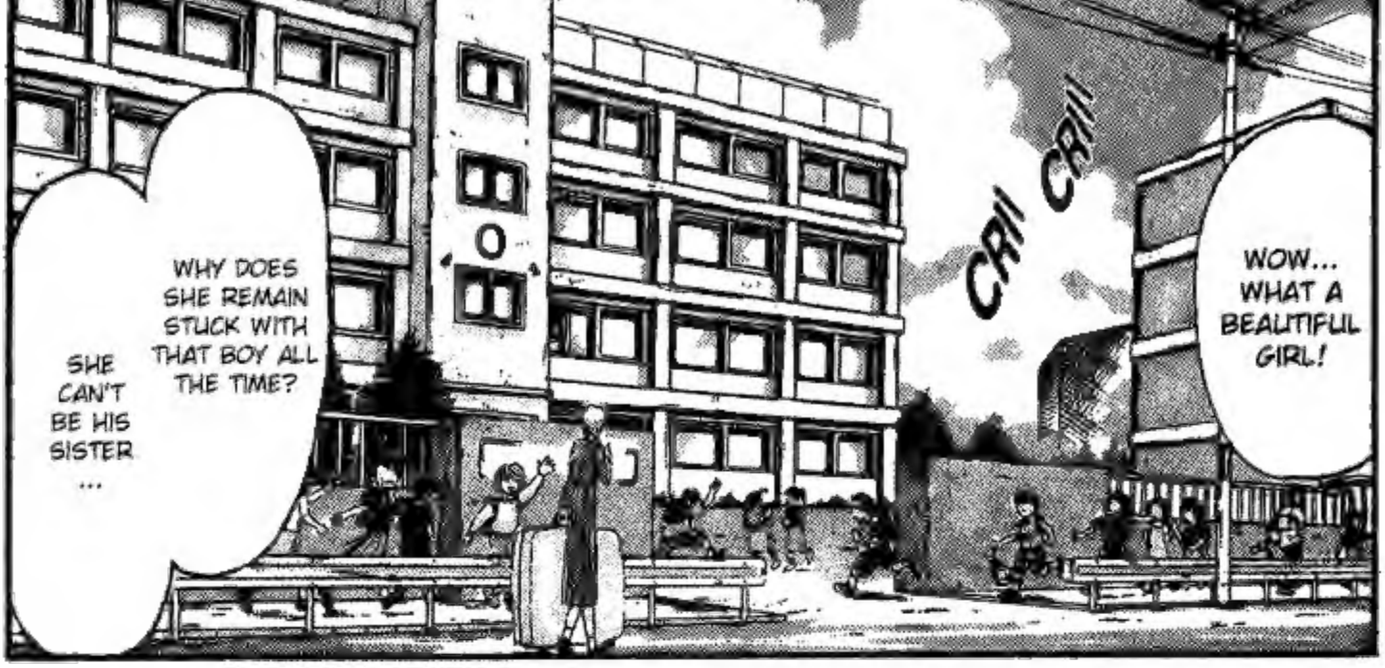
ACT II : CIRCUS • DEPARTURE
CHAPTER EIGHT "MASARU'S DECISION"

AS USUAL, SHIROGANE'S THE SAME ...
IT'S A PIECE OF JEWELRY! PURE CRYSTAL, AND HANDMADE!
MASTER, I TOOK A GLASS FOR YOU! YOU MUST USE IT EXCLUSIVELY!

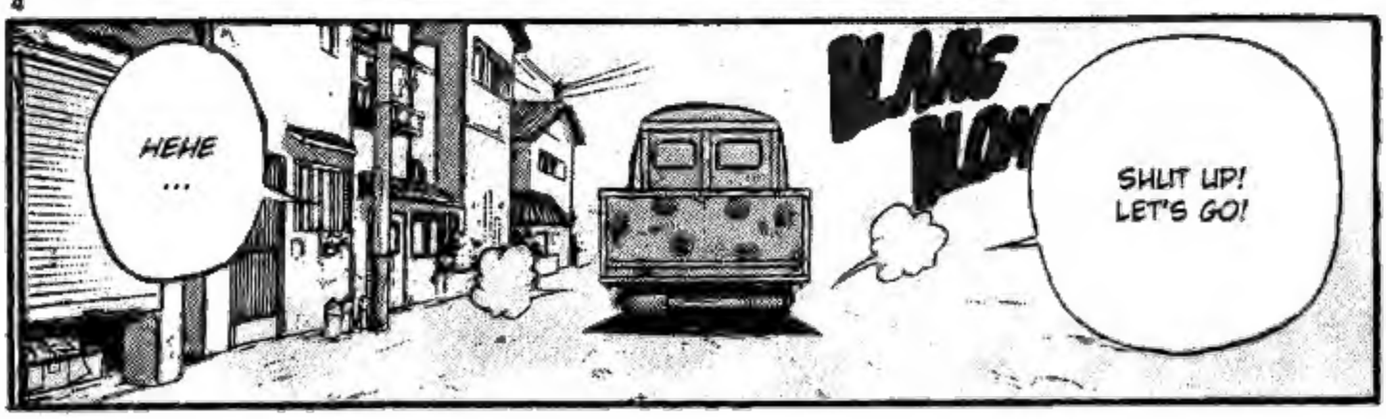
AS WE'RE IN SUMMER, YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOUTH'S HEALTH TO PREVENT THE BACTERIAS' PROLIFERATION...
SHIROGANE... DO YOU KNOW MANY CHILDREN OF MY AGE WHO GARGLE IN A CRYSTAL GLASS ?

ACT II : CIRCUS * DEPARTURE -
CHAPTER EIGHT: "MASARU'S DECISION"

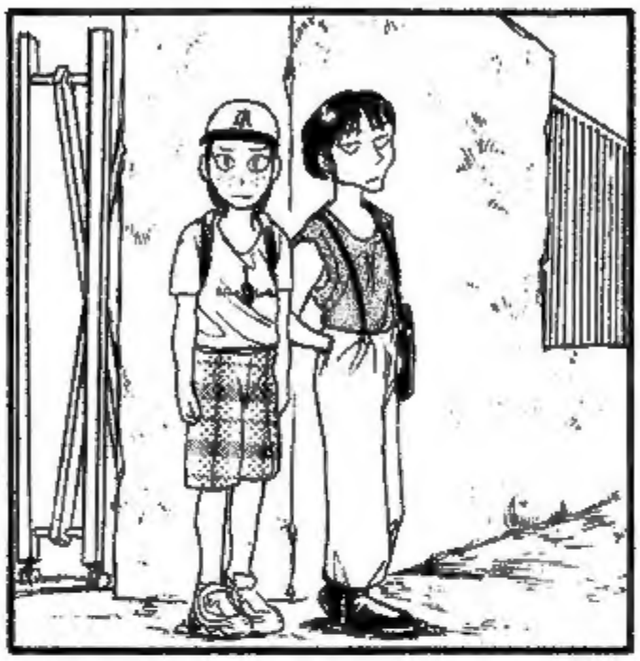

WOW... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!
CRII CRII
WHY DOES SHE REMAIN STUCK WITH THAT BOY ALL THE TIME?
SHE CAN'T BE HIS SISTER ...

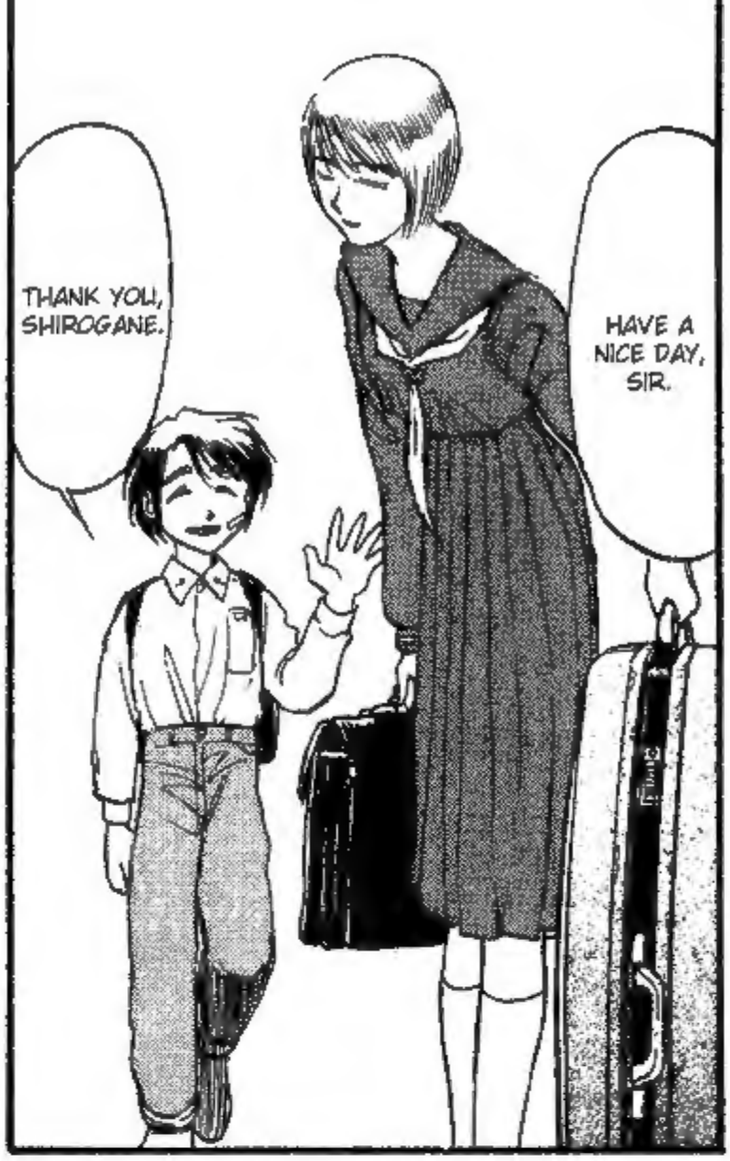
ANYWAY, SHE PROMISED SHE WOULD PAY US A VISIT IN TWO DAYS ...
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ASK HER.
GRATTE GRATTE
HEY, HEY! SAY, BOSS, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THEM, TOO.
YOU WANTED TO COME HERE WITH THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE FINE.

4


SHUT UP! LET'S GO!
VLANG VLOW
HEHE ...

HA...




THANK YOU, SHIROGANE.
HAVE A NICE DAY, SIR.

ABOUT THOSE KNIVES ...
LISTEN ...
KRLOM
KRLOM

WE WON'T USE THEM ANYMORE!
WE THREW THEM AWAY ...

SAH

THAT'S VERY GOOD, KIDS.

SAH

GLOUP

HNN

HOOOO

6

OKAY!

WE'RE SORRY ...

HM...

SAH!

HASAFU SAIGA

BUT... THESE ARE MY SHOES!

LET'S THROW THEM IN THE TRASH-CAN AND THEN DIRECTLY IN THE INCINERATOR!

WE'RE GONNA SHUT HIS BIG MOUTH UP ONCE AND FOR ALL!

WHERE ARE WE GONNA HIDE THEM TODAY ?!

OUCH! ... WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, ATSUSHI, ARE YOU CRAZY ?!

BAD! DOOM

STAX

BRRRR

NO... I WAS KIDDING ...

GRR RR

HMPF

HM... THANK YOU VERY MUCH, ATSUSHI ...

HE RAN AND TOOK THE GLOVES !!

5TH YEAR 3RD CLASS

YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THIS! HE GOT HIT EVERYWHERE, BUT HE WAS NOT EVEN SCARED!

ZOZA ANN

...IN THE PAPERS. THEY DIDN'T MENTION ANY ROBOT!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE OVERTHINKING IT A LITTLE BIT? I HEARD ABOUT THAT STORY. .
HE BLEW THEM AWAY! THAT WAS AWESOME!
RRLAM
THE BIG ROBOT STARTED TO MOVE, AND THEN HE KICKED ALL THE GANGSTERS !
YES... EVERYTHING.
ATSUSHI! EVERY-THING I SAID WAS TRUE, WASN'T IT?
CROSS
IDIOTS! I WAS THERE WITH HIM!! I SAW EVERY-THING!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE SAYING THAT MASARU WAS BRAVE?!
PLANET ESCAPE
HI!
HA HAA! I TOLD YOU!! AND THEN...
CROSS
DOH
HI...
SBOMF

HMM... WELL.. IT'S...

TELL US HOW IT HAPPENED !

WERE YOU SCARED?

HEY, MASARU, IS IT TRUE, WHAT ORIE JUST SAID ?!

KAZU

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM!

THEY'RE ALL LISTENNING TO ME...

IT'S UNBELEVABLE ...

IF YOU KNOW HOW TO MANIPULATE ROBOTS, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM THROWING A BALL!

REALLY?! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME!

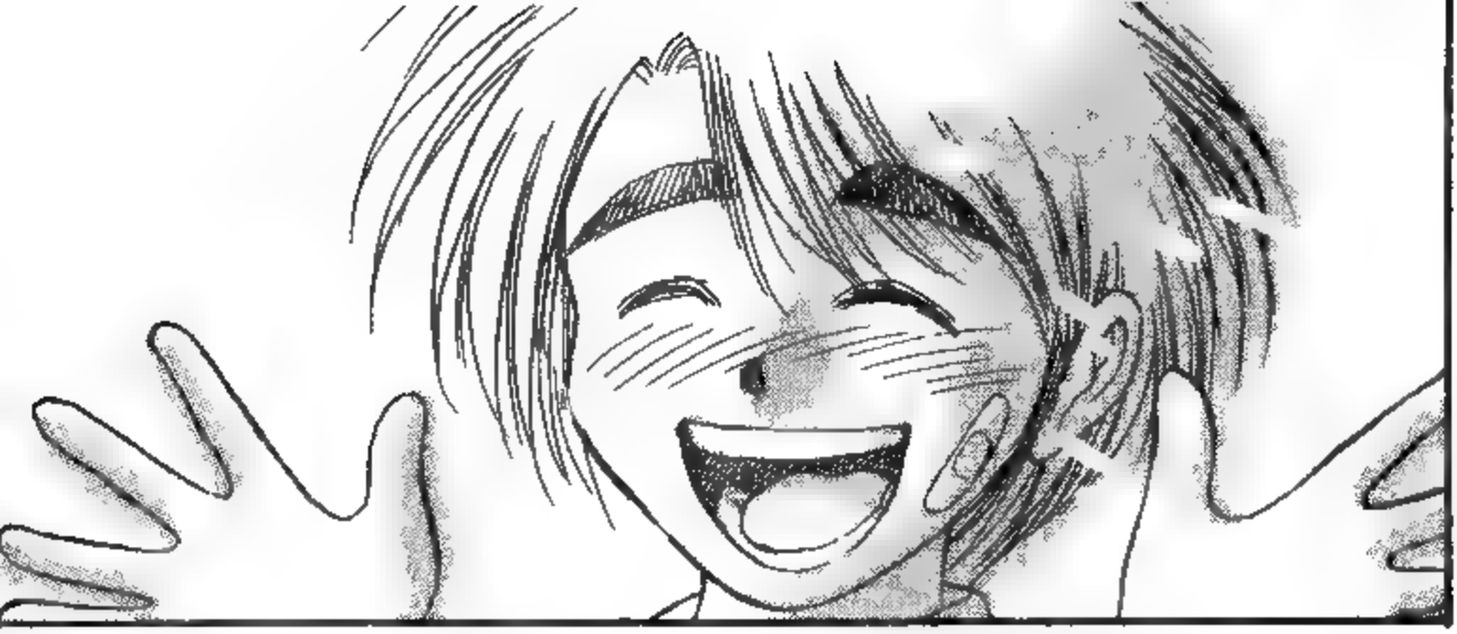
MASARU! FOR TODAY'S GAME, YOU'LL BE OUR PITCHER !

HOW DARE YOU ?!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, ORIE! I WANT TO HEAR MASARU TELL US THE STORY HIMSELF!

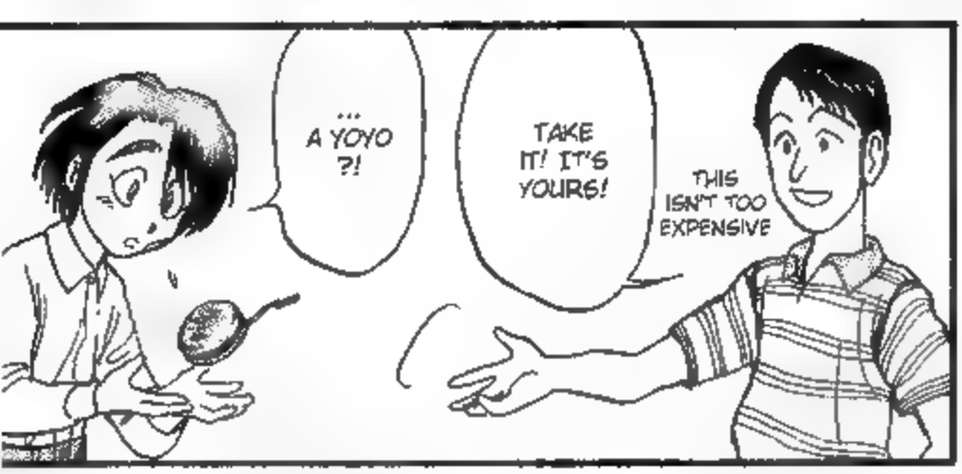
HM, ME?

HEY, MASARU, I HAVE SOME MORE MARMALADE! DO YOU WANT SOME?



DON'T TE... THE TEACHER THAT I'VE GOT THIS IN MY BAG ...
BUT HERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ...
YOU'RE RICH, AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANY COOL TOYS!

I'M VERY SORRY .. BUT I NEVER WATCH TV .
NOT EVEN POKEMON!
HEY, MASARU! YOU DON'T WATCH ANY-THING!


... A YOYO ?!
TAKE IT! IT'S YOURS!
THIS ISN'T TOO EXPENSIVE

HO
P!

SPAF
MASARU, ARE YOU COMING WITH ME ?
CROSS

YOU KNOW ABOUT IT? IT'S REALLY IN!
ZOING

MASARU!

THANK YOU ... THANK YOU VERY MUCH !

HIHIHI

STOP IT, GIRLS !!

HEY ORIE.. YOU AND MASARU ARE BECOMING SUCH A NICE COUPLE.

YES APPARENTLY, A STUDENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL WHO LIVE IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS SNEAKING IN THE SCHOOLS AT NIGHT WITH HIS DOG. AND THE OTHER NIGHT ..

REALLY? IS THAT TRUE?

DID YOU HEAR? IT SEEMS THAT THE RABBITS' CASE GOT SOLVED.

AT LEAST I FEEL BETTER ABOUT THAT ...

HA HA HA !

BUT AT THE PRECINCT, NOBODY BELIEVED HIM! CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT!

HE SAW THOSE HUGE PUPPETS IN OUR SCHOOL. HE WAS SO SCARED, HE SURRENDERED HIMSELF TO THE POLICE.

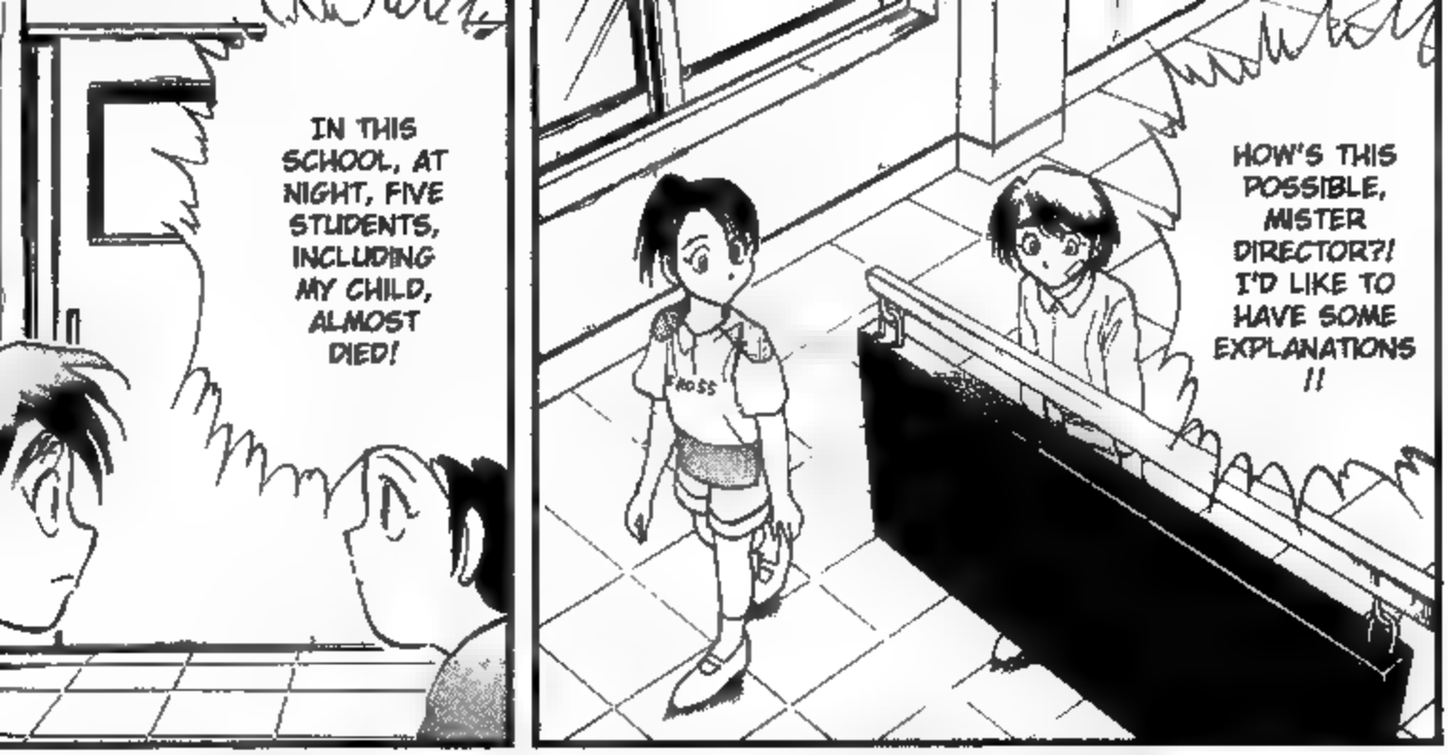
NO...

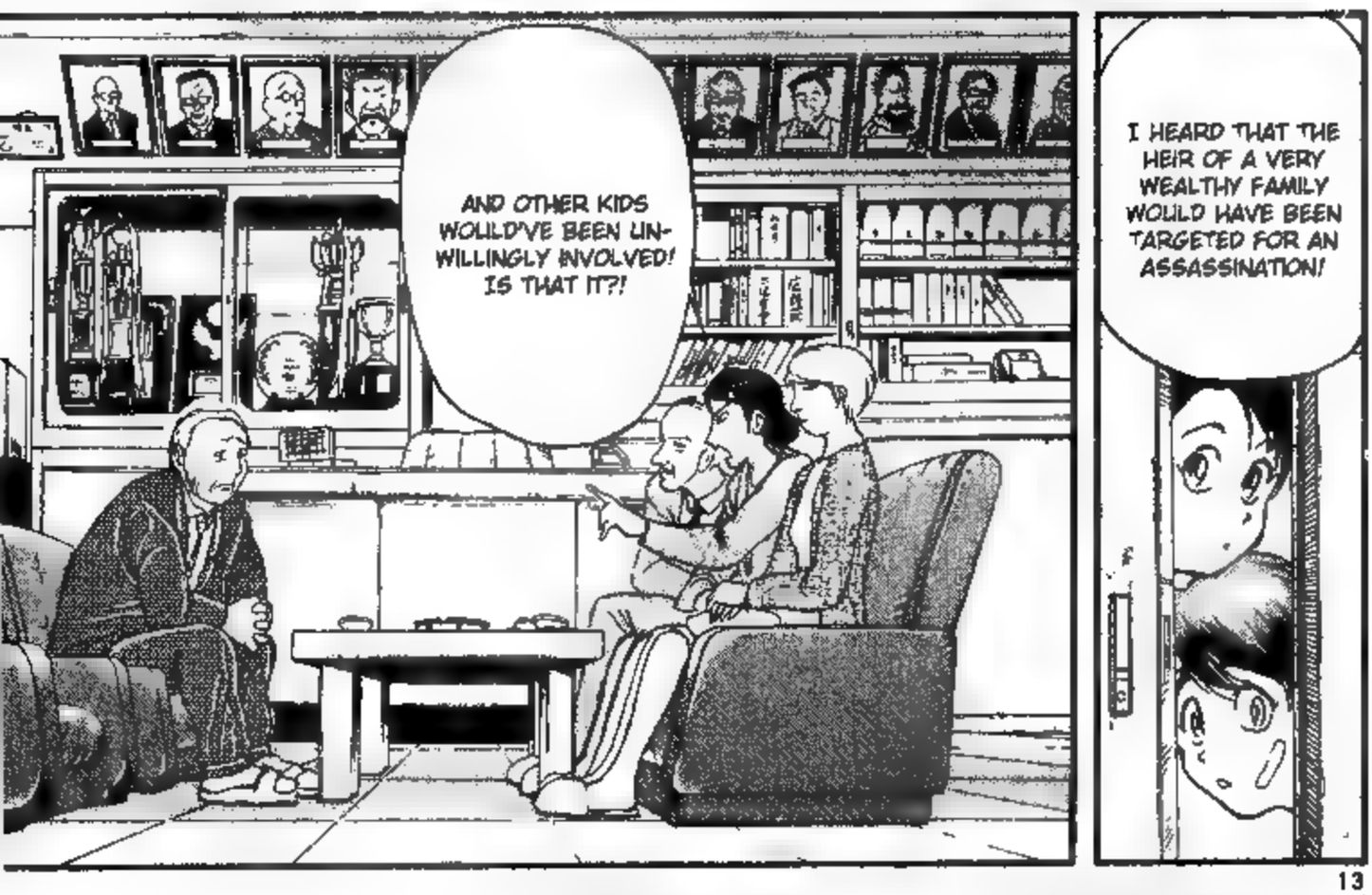
THE THING IS, HIS MOTHER'S A MEMBER OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION, AND...

MAYBE HE'S SICK ...

HE HASN'T COME BACK TO SCHOOL SINCE THE OTHER NIGHT.

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS KAZUO ?

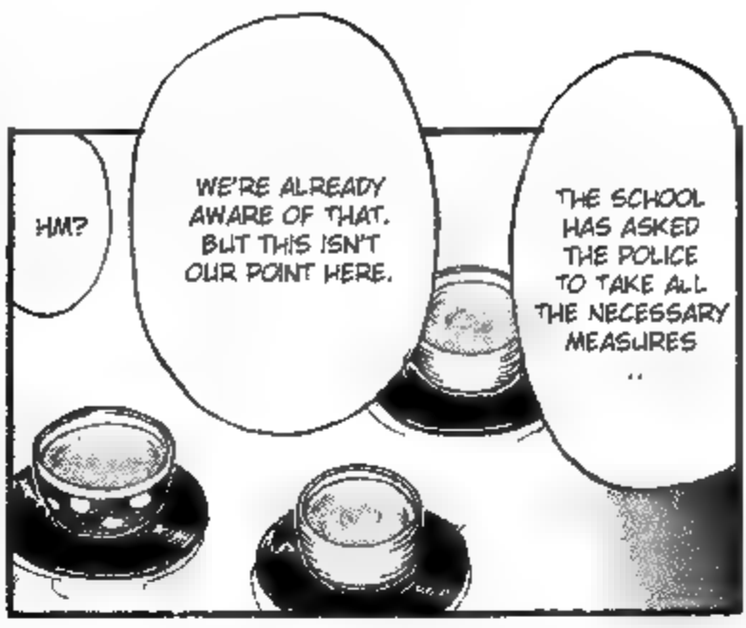

IN THIS SCHOOL, AT NIGHT, FIVE STUDENTS, INCLUDING MY CHILD, ALMOST DIED!
HOW'S THIS POSSIBLE, MISTER DIRECTOR?! I'D LIKE TO HAVE SOME EXPLANATIONS !!

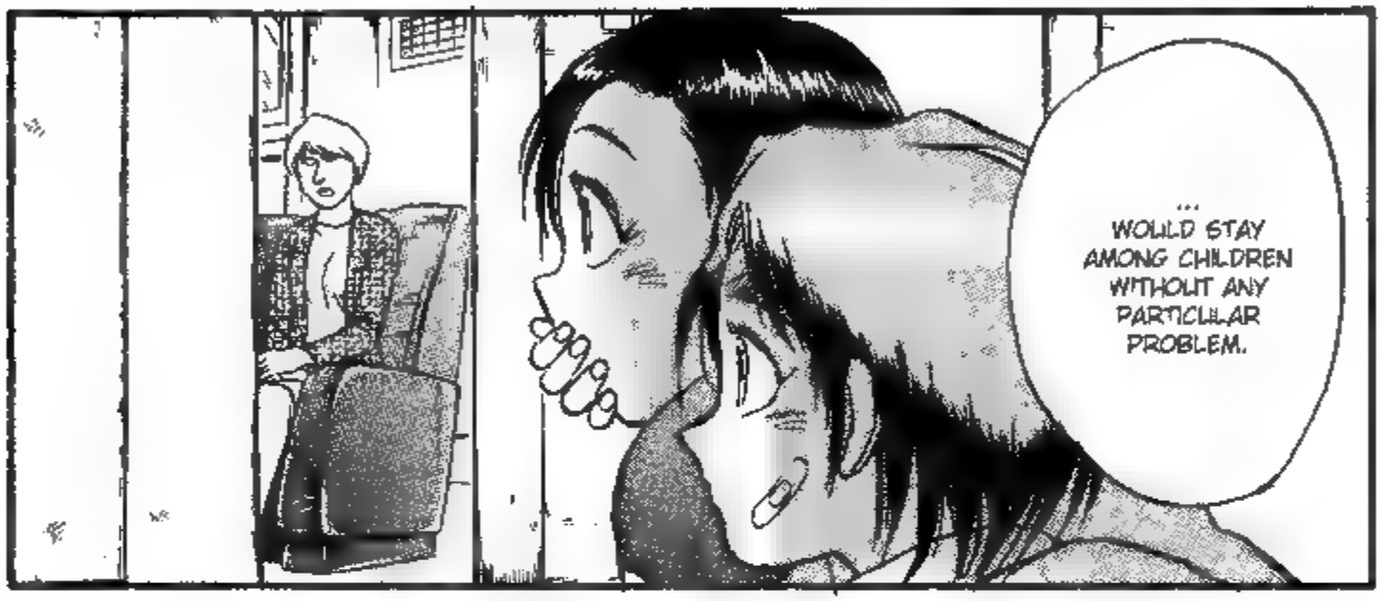

AND OTHER KIDS WOULD'VE BEEN UN-WILLINGLY INVOLVED! IS THAT IT?!
I HEARD THAT THE HEIR OF A VERY WEALTHY FAMILY WOULD HAVE BEEN TARGETED FOR AN ASSASSINATION!

... I CAN'T LET THAT GO, CAN I ?
AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ...

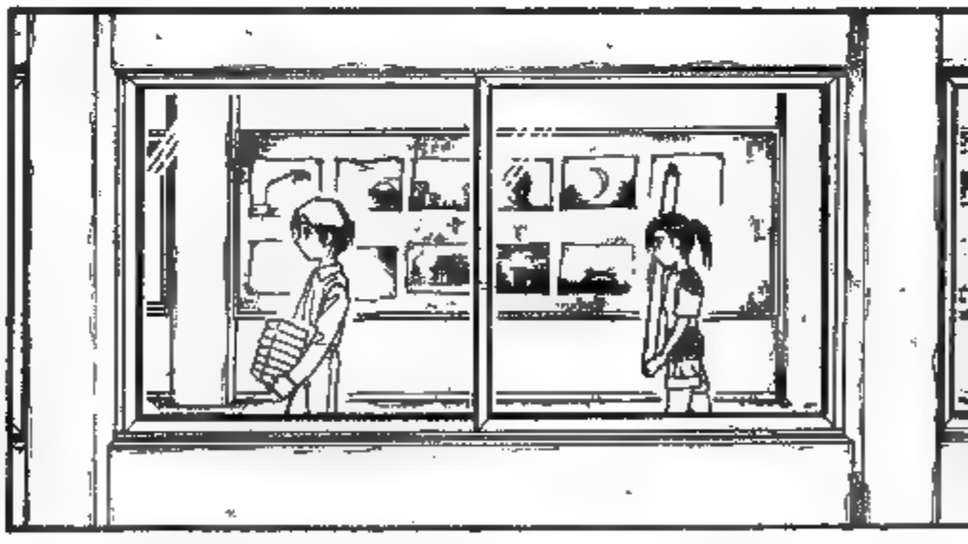
YES, MISS TAKEUCHI ...

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO SAY IS THAT IT IS VERY UNPLEASANT THAT A BOY WAS INVOLVED IN SUCH STRANGE EVENTS...


HM?
WE'RE ALREADY AWARE OF THAT. BUT THIS ISN'T OUR POINT HERE.
THE SCHOOL HAS ASKED THE POLICE TO TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY MEASURES ..


... WOULD STAY AMONG CHILDREN WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM.

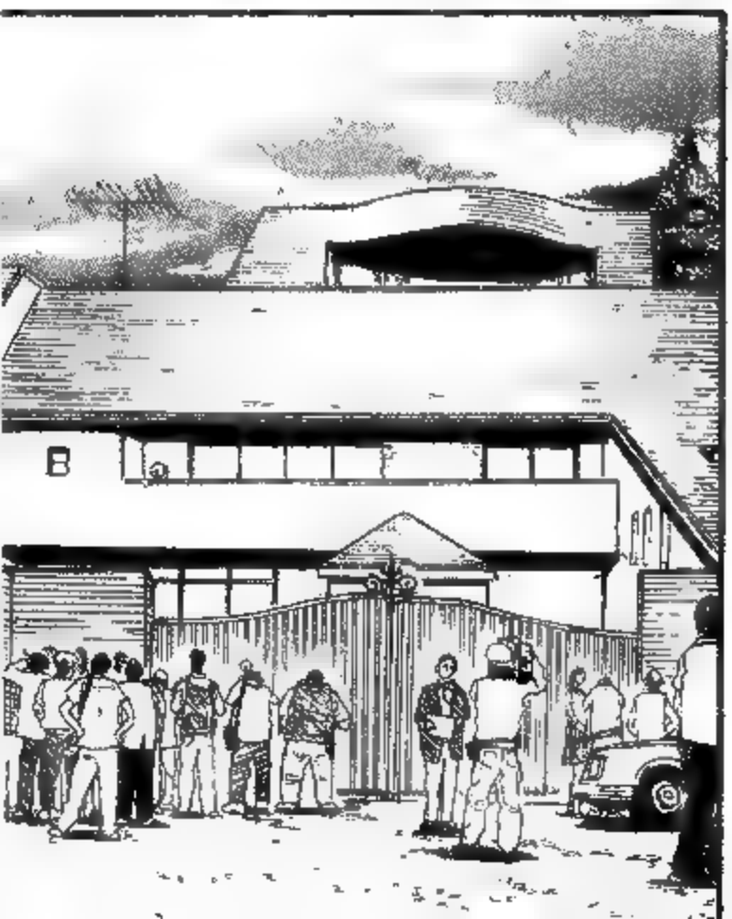
COME ON .. DON'T WORRY, MASARU

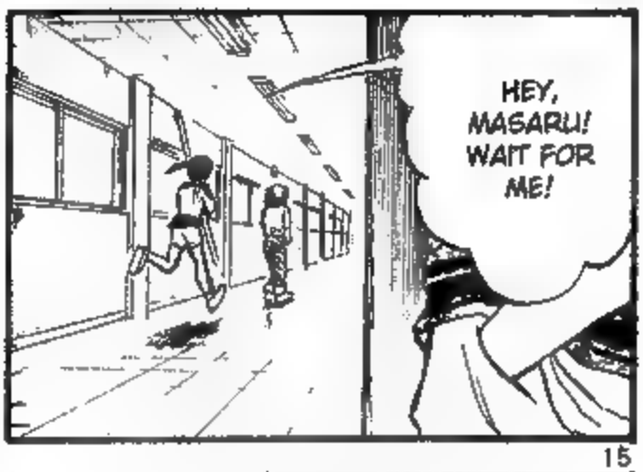


YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD TO SAVE US!
BUT I KNOW THAT YOU SAVED US!
MY MOTHER ALSO SAYS THOSE KINDS OF THINGS ...

STOP IT! I'M TELLING YOU, IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
ORIE... I'M REALLY SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, ATSUSH, AND THE OTHERS.

WHATEVER YOU MAY THINK...
... I THINK MISS TAKEUCHI IS RIGHT!


B

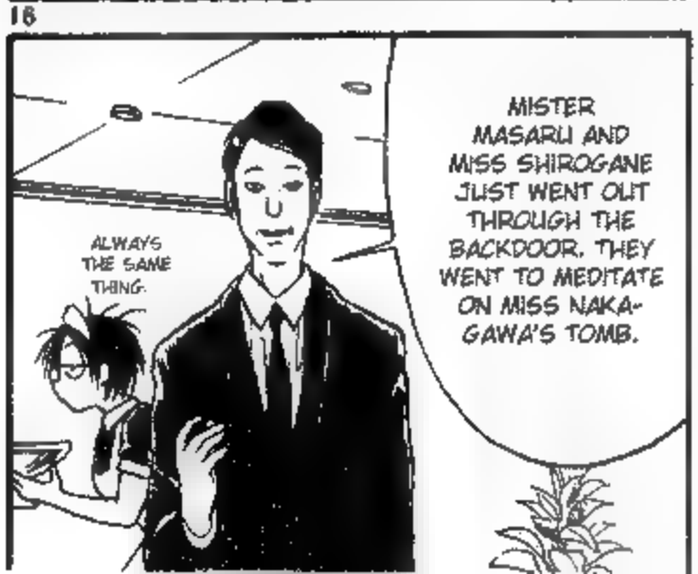

HEY, MASARU! WAIT FOR ME!

PEOPLE SAY MASARU SAIGA WAS KIDNAPPED IN ORDER TO STEAL THE HUGE HERITAGE HE GOT AT HIS FATHER'S DEATH. IS THAT TRUE?
DO YOU DENY?
COME ON, ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS!

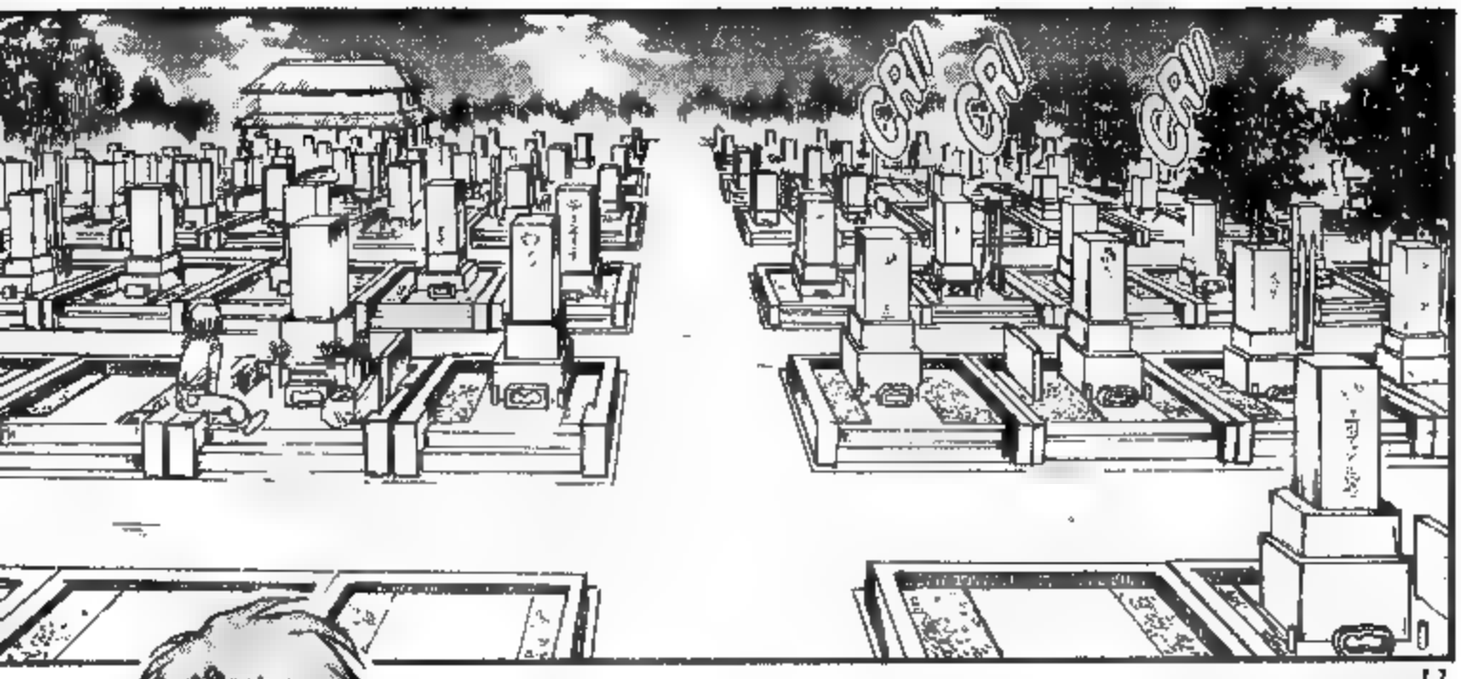
HAAA! THEM AGAIN! ... WHY AM I BEING PERSECUTED ?!
AT LEAST TELL US WHY MISTER SAIGA DECIDED TO ADOPT HIS OWN NEPHEW! YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT!
SORRY. MISTER ZENJI SAIGA IS ON A BUSINESS TRIP RIGHT NOW. I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN ANSWER.

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS HE?
PLOP PLOP

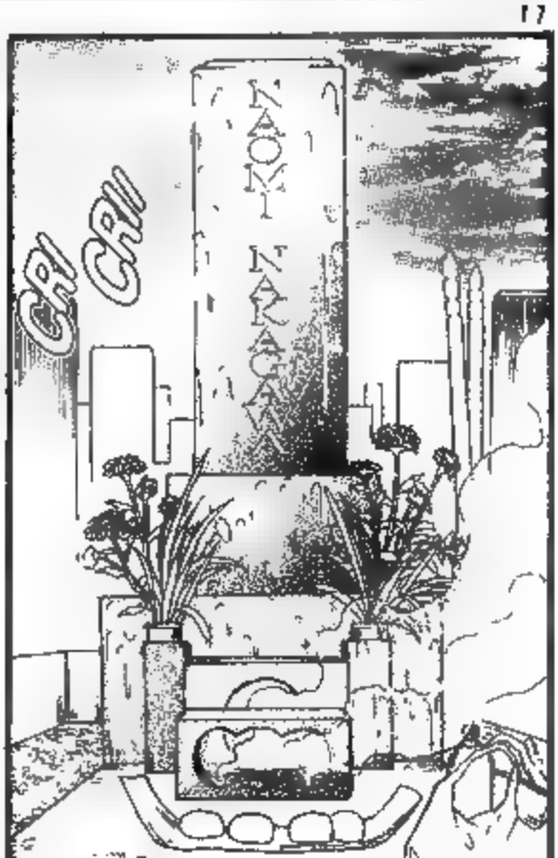
ALL THIS IS MASARU'S FAULT!!
IT'S BECAUSE HE AND I ARE STILL RELATED, WHETHER I WANT IT OR NOT!
SIR, YOUR LITTLE STRAW-BERRY JELLIES!
HYAHA
GAAA

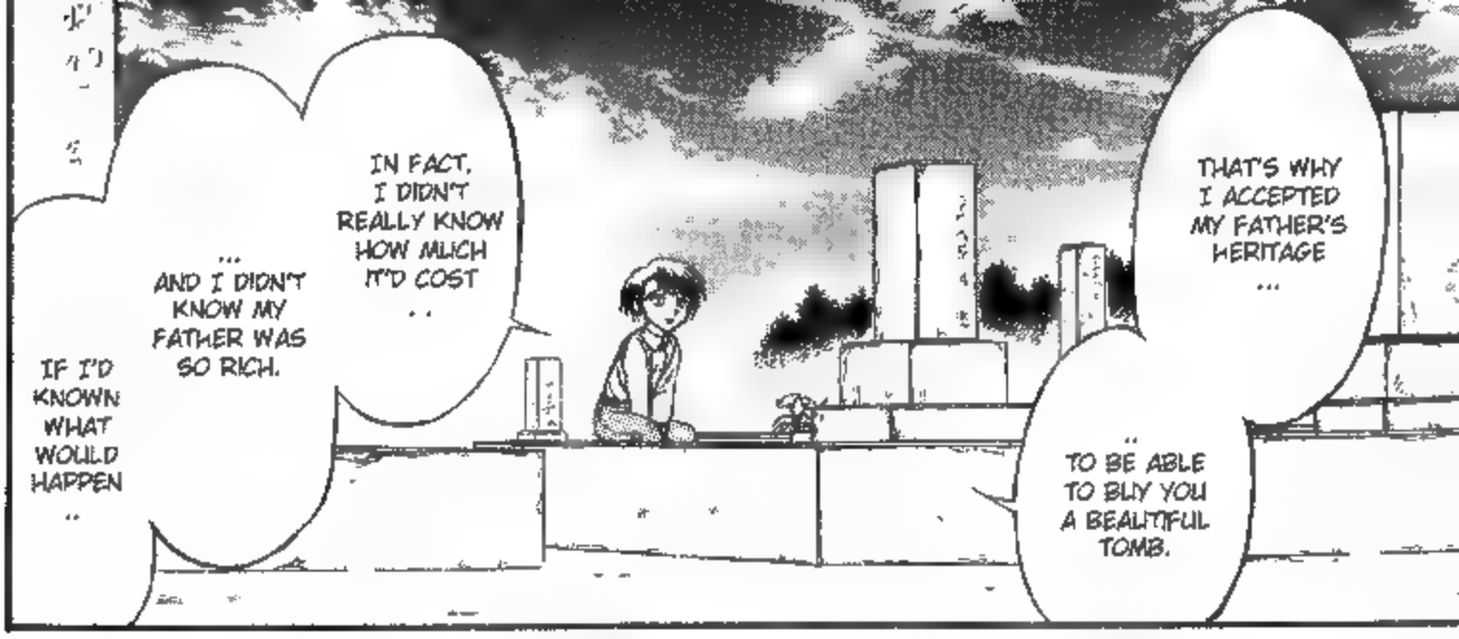

ALWAYS THE SAME THING.
MISTER MASARU AND MISS SHIROGANE JUST WENT OUT THROUGH THE BACKDOOR. THEY WENT TO MEDITATE ON MISS NAKA-GAWA'S TOMB.

IS IT TRUE THAT MASARU IS THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF THE FORMER CEO OF THE SAIGA COMPANY AND ONE OF HIS MISTRESSES ?
WE WANNA KNOW EVERY-THING!

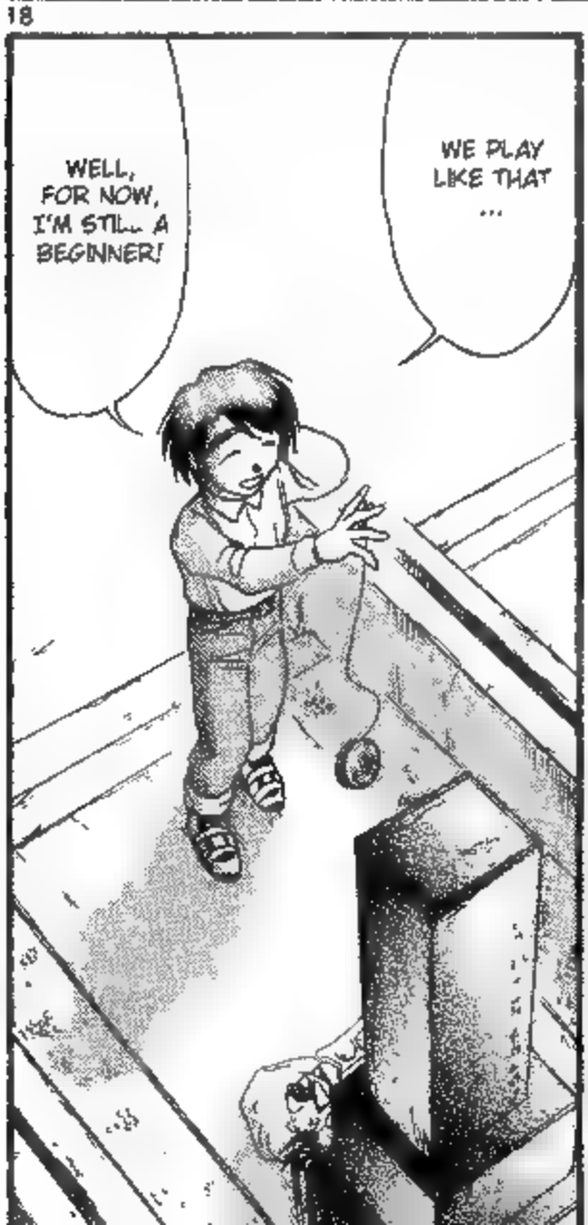

CRI
CRI
CRI

CRI
YOUR NEW TOMB IS BEAUTIFUL, MOM!
DID YOU SEE THAT? IT'S FINISHED!
YOU DESERVE YOUR OWN HOUSE, TOO!


CRI
CRI
NAOMI NAKADA


IF I'D KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ..
... AND I DIDN'T KNOW MY FATHER WAS SO RICH.
IN FACT, I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HOW MUCH IT'D COST ..
THAT'S WHY I ACCEPTED MY FATHER'S HERITAGE ...
.. TO BE ABLE TO BUY YOU A BEAUTIFUL TOMB.

TODAY, EVERYBODY LISTENED TO ME WHEN I WAS TELLING MY STORY!
HEY, MOM, EVERYTHING CHANGED AT SCHOOL!


WELL, FOR NOW, I'M STILL A BEGINNER!
WE PLAY LIKE THAT ...

AND THEY CALLED ME BY MY FIRST NAME!
NOBODY'S MEAN TO ME ANYMORE!

A FRIEND GAVE IT TO ME AT SCHOOL!
NAOMI NAKAGAWA
LOOK, THAT'S A YOYO!

BLANG

I PROMISED.

I KNOW I MUSTN'T CRY.

19

SHIRO-GANE...

...
I HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME SOMEWHERE ELSE, TOO.

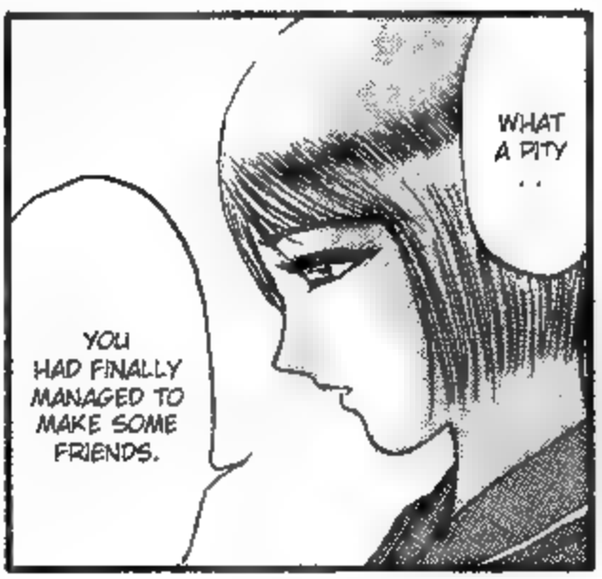
MOM ...

I FINALLY MANAGED TO MAKE SOME FRIENDS AT SCHOOL. SO...

..
SCHOOL, TOO.
NO... I DECIDED TO LEAVE AND TO CHANGE ..

SIR, YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE ..
... ANYMORE ?

GHH


WHAT A PITY ..
YOU HAD FINALLY MANAGED TO MAKE SOME FRIENDS.

IF I STAY HERE, I'M JEOPARDIZING ALL MY FRIENDS' LIVES.

20

... KEEP MY PROMISE.
AND I WANT TO ...

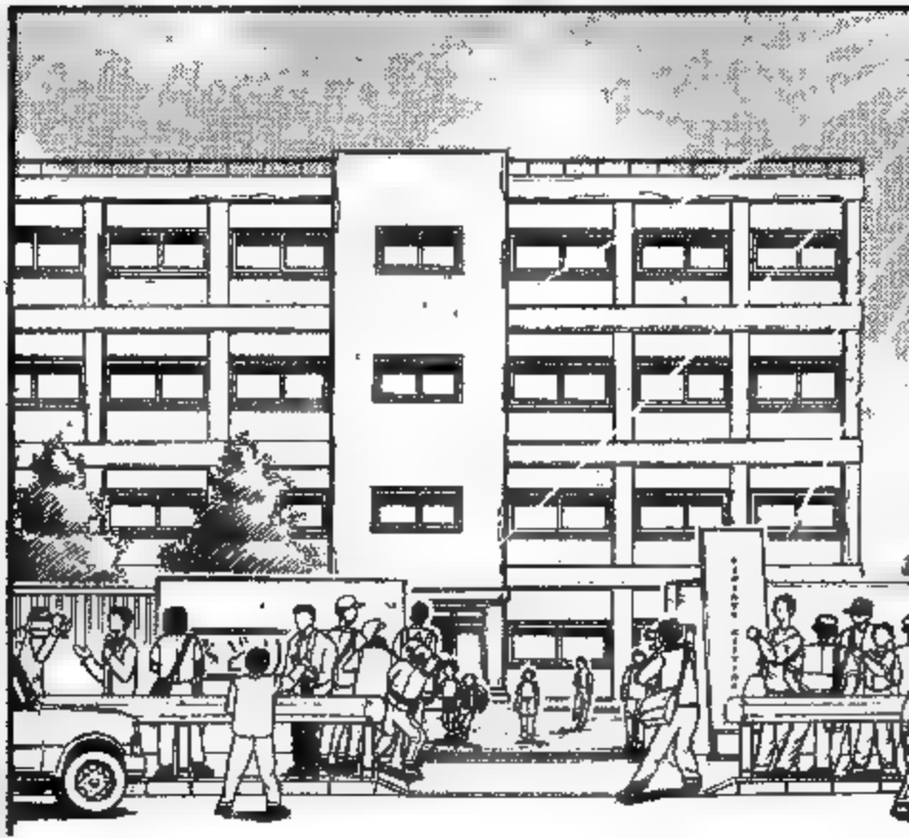
I SWORE TO NARUMI I WOULDN'T CRY ..
DON'T SAY THAT!
SHIROGANE ..

NOW, MONEY SCARES ME.
I KNOW WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT MONEY...
BUT TO GET IT, SOME PEOPLE ARE READY TO KILL!
AGITΠ
CIRCUS DEPARTURE
CHAPTER NINE
"LETTER FROM A FRIEND"
I OFTEN USED TO WISH I COULD AT LEAST BUY HER A FLOWER.
MY MOTHER USED TO HAVE A PART-TIME JOB WHEN I WAS LIVING WITH HER IN OUR LITTLE ONE-ROOMED FLAT. IT WASN'T EASY EVERYDAY.
SUDDENLY, DOZENS OF PEOPLE, WHO WERE JUST TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY SITUATION, STARTED TO SHOW UP.
... EVERYTHING CHANGED.
LATER, MY FATHER LEFT ME A 18 BILLION YEN HERITAGE. FROM THAT MOMENT ...
I TOLD SHIROGANE THAT MONEY SCARED ME ...
WAS TO BE ABLE TO OFFER A FLOWER TO MY MOTHER.
ALL I WANTED ...
BUT...
AND, I LOST SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.

A VERY SKILLFUL PUPPET MASTER IS NOTHING MORE THAN A PUPPET MASTER WHO MANAGED TO MANIPULATE HIS PUPPET WHILE CONSTANTLY REMAINING AWARE OF THE DANGER IT CAN BRING ...
TO ALL THOSE WHO SURROUND HIM.
SHE ANSWERED ME VERY SOFTLY ...

ACT II : CIRCUS * DEPARTURE
CHAPTER NINE: "LETTER FROM A FRIEND"

2



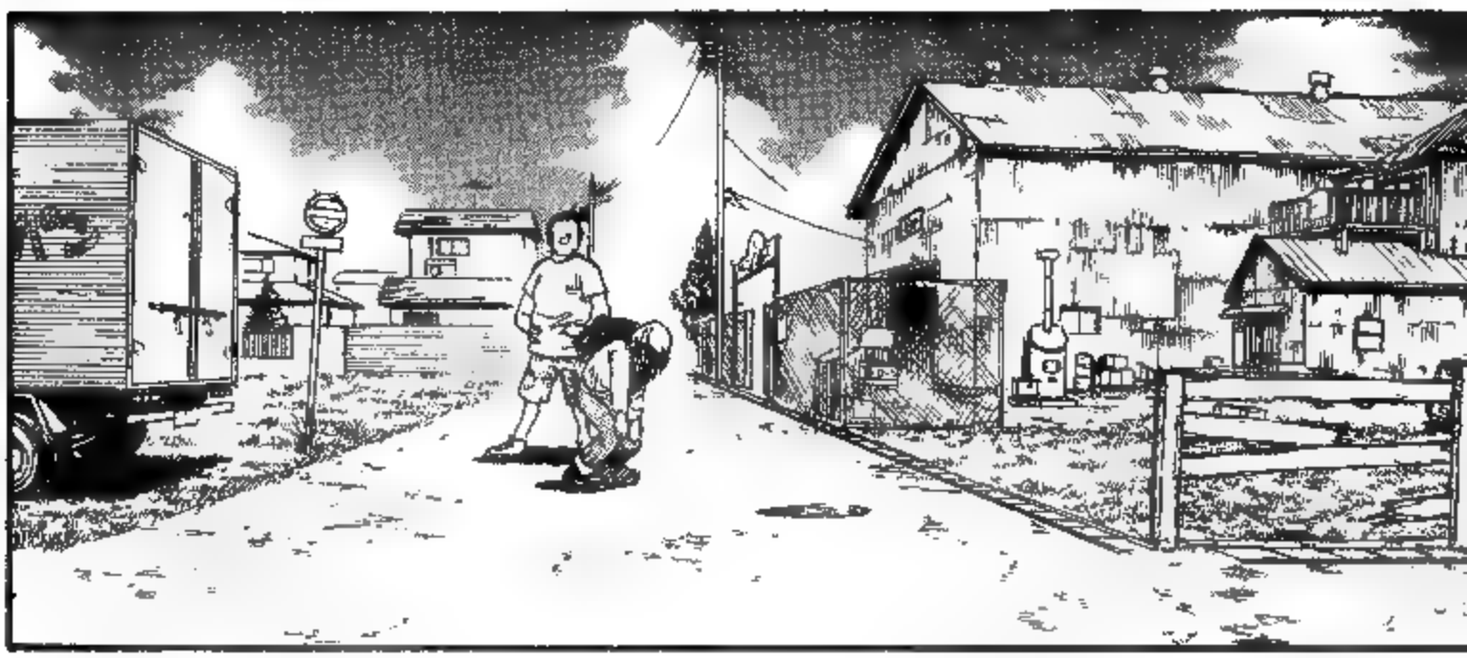
OUAAAHHH
DO YOU KNOW THAT THE SCHOOL IS SETTING UP A MEETING TO EXPLAIN TO ALL THE PARENTS WHY YOU WERE KIDNAPPED AND HOW YOUR FRIENDS GOT INVOLVED IN THAT CASE ?!
ARE YOU MASARU SAIGA?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK ?
TAN TAN TAN

WHAT DO YOU THINK? WHY WERE YOU THE ONLY ONE TO INHERIT FROM YOUR FATHER ?
HM.. I..
YOUR MOTHER WAS THE MISTRESS OF THE FORMER CEO OF THE SAIGA COMPANY, WASN'T SHE?

SPAAF
COME ON, SAY SOME-THING !
BUT.. HM..

DAN DAN DAN
WAIT !!

ATSUSHI?! BUT...
GO H

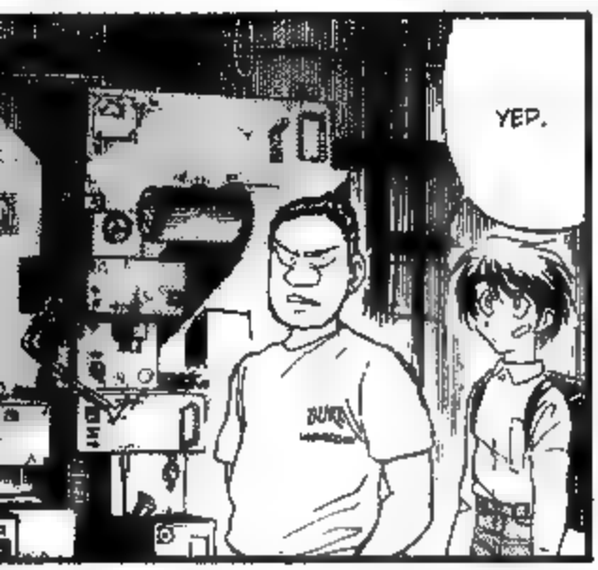


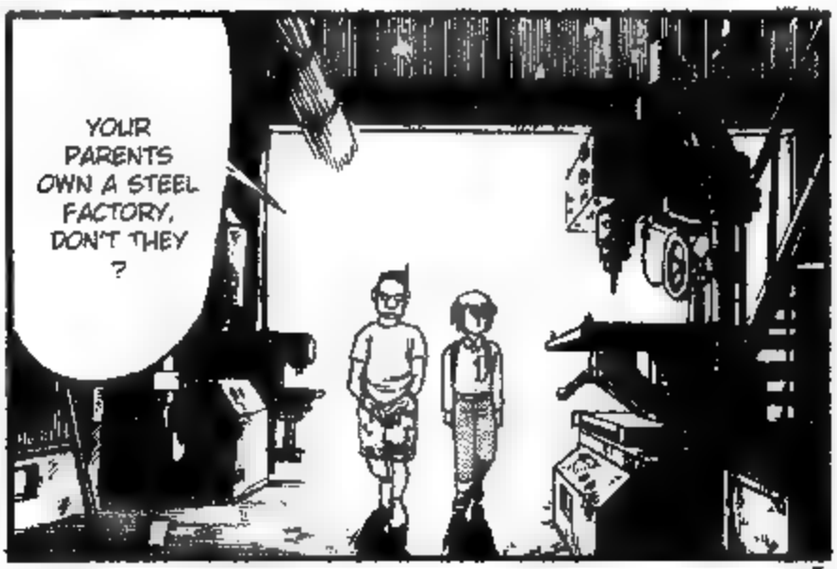
HA.. REALLY? YOU THINK SO?
YOU'RE TOO KIND!
IDIOT! YOU MUSTN'T TALK TO THOSE PEOPLE!

THANK YOU .. YOU SAVED ME .. ALL THESE JOURNALISTS JUMPED ON ME, AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING!
FFH
FFH
FFH

Kajiyama steel
TO MY HOUSE!

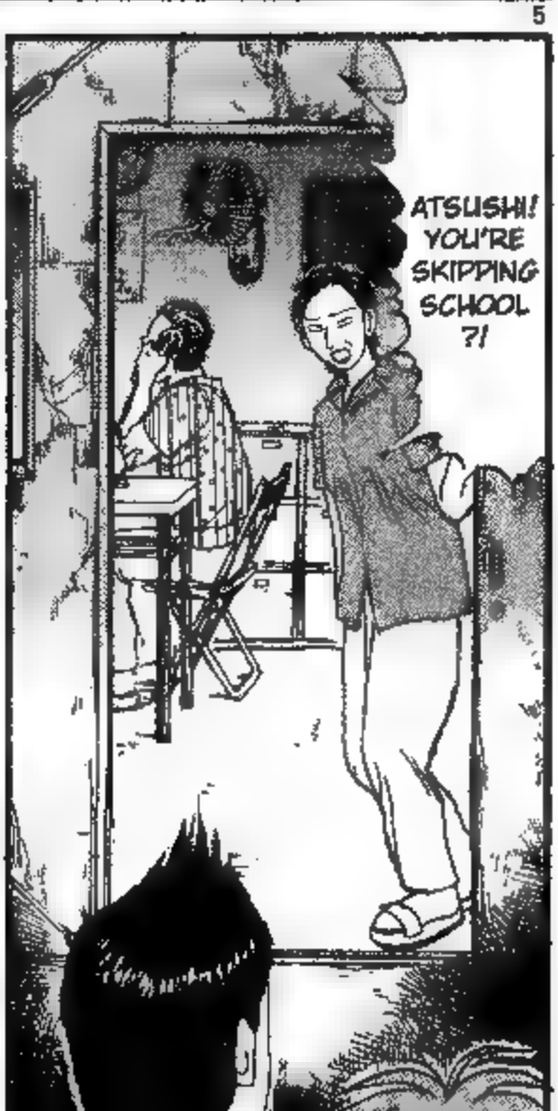
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
COME WITH ME!


YEP.

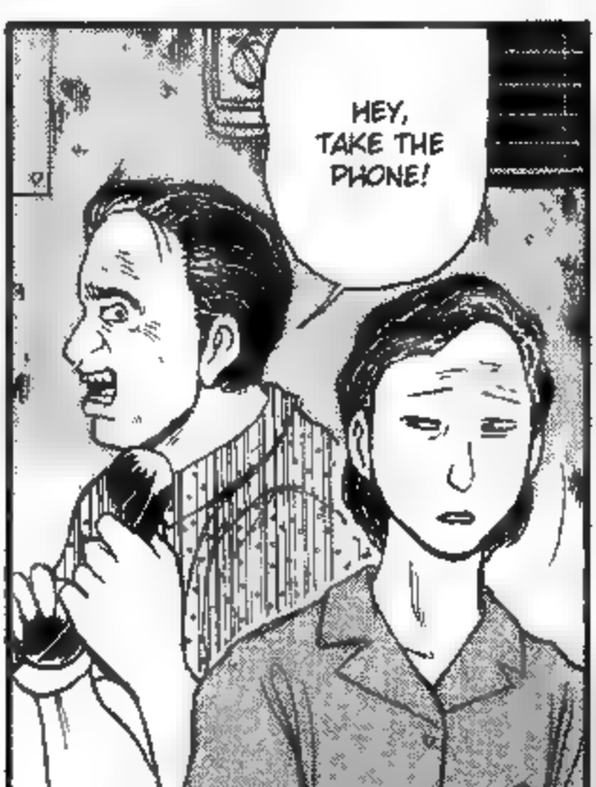

YOUR PARENTS OWN A STEEL FACTORY, DON'T THEY?

5

GOOD MORNING
NO. WE'RE GOING.


ATSUSHI! YOU'RE SKIPPING SCHOOL?!

...


HEY, TAKE THE PHONE!

YEAH!
WOW YOU SEEM TO LOVE WRESTLING!

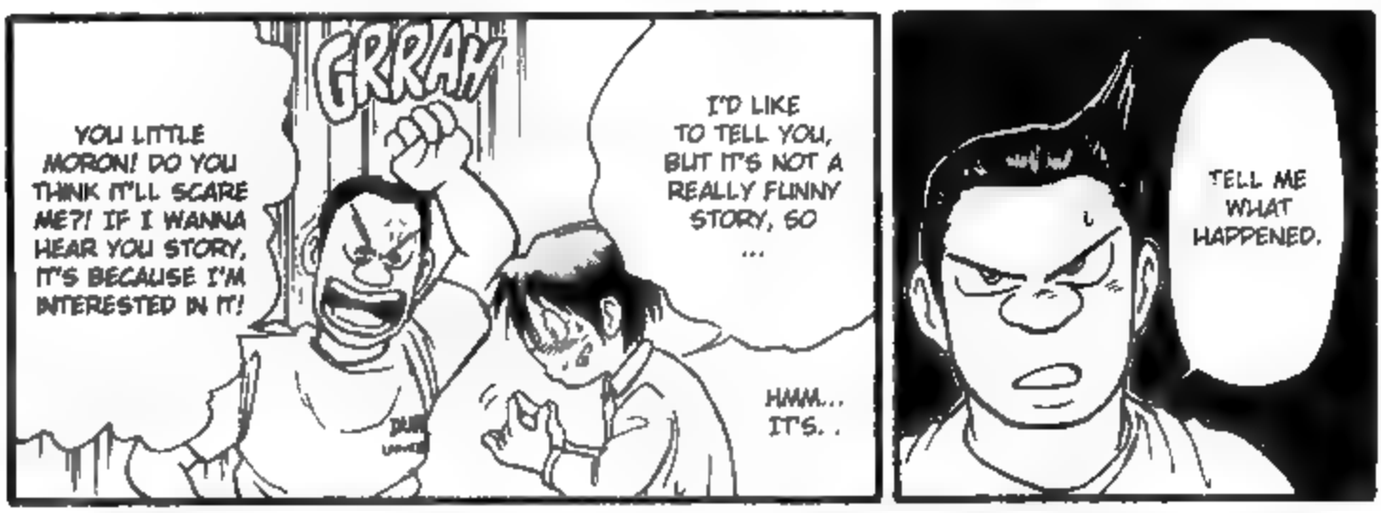
NO, YOU'RE WRONG

MASA!!! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THESE THINGS ONLY EXIST ON TELEVISION!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A WRESTLER?

IT'S SOMETHING REAL! GREAT WRESTLERS ARE WAITING FOR THOSE WHO SHALL REPLACE THEM
ALL THESE FIGHTS
THEY'RE DEFINITELY NOT IN OUR DREAMS
HA?

TODAY, NARUMI ISN'T HERE ANYMORE ...
HAA! THAT'S WHY YOU REALLY SUCK AT FIGHTING!
I THOUGHT THOSE THINGS WERE ONLY MADE IN MOVIES
NARUMI WAS A FRIEND OF MINE. HE SAVED MY LIFE. BUT, BEFORE THAT, HE EXPLAINED SOMETHING TO ME...
AND YOU'LL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO'LL TEACH YOU THE ART OF FIGHTING
THIS IS NOTHING VIRTUAL! THIS IS REALITY!
LISTEN MASARU MARTIAL ARTS AND HAND-FIGHTING ALL THIS IS FOR REAL!

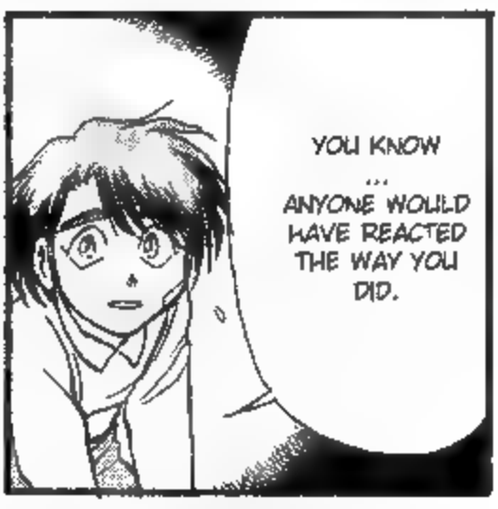

GRRAH
YOU LITTLE MORON! DO YOU THINK IT'LL SCARE ME?! IF I WANNA HEAR YOU STORY, IT'S BECAUSE I'M INTERESTED IN IT!
I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU, BUT IT'S NOT A REALLY FUNNY STORY, SO ...
HMM... IT'S..
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.

YOU'VE EXPERIENCED STRANGE THINGS ...
MASARU!
WOW .
GLUG

I SHOWED YOU THAT I COULD BE A COWARD, AND THAT I WASN'T THAT TOUGH !
MA-SA-RU ?
HAAA. MASARU'LL NEVER COME OUT
ANYWAY .

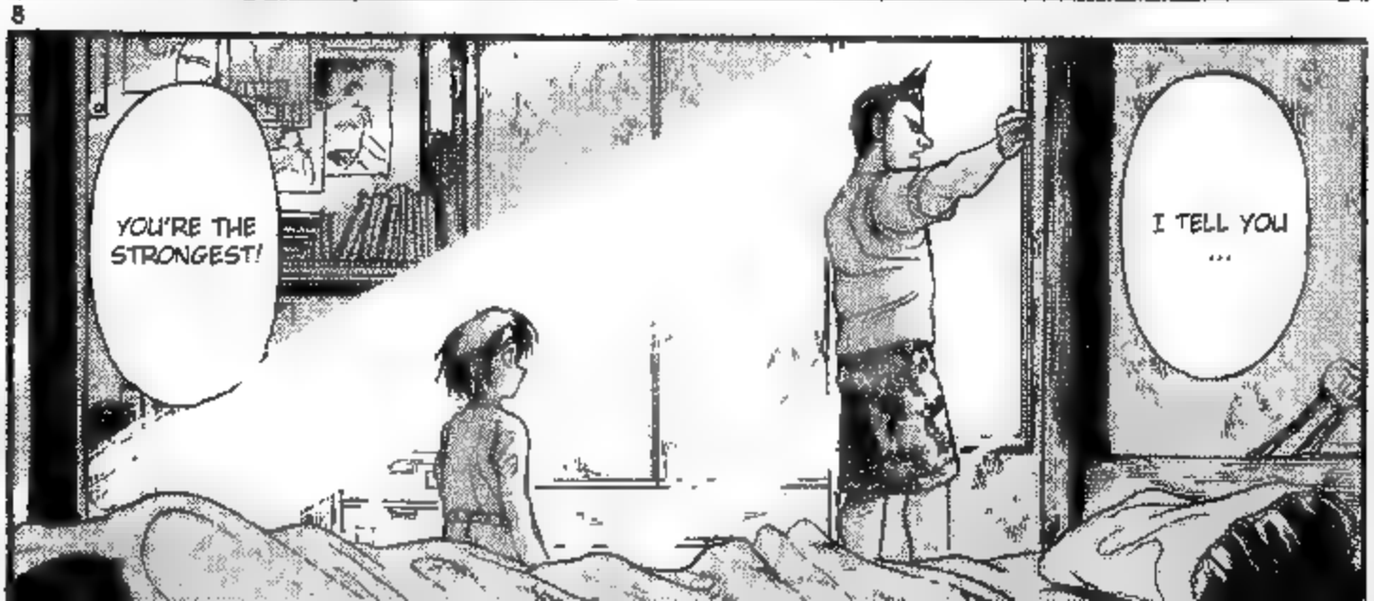
LET IT GO! IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!
AGAIN, I'M REALLY SORRY, ATSUSHI.
THEN CAME OUR KIDNAPPING.

... EVEN WHEN WE GOT KIDNAPPED !
CLAC
BUT YOU STOOD STILL AND FIRM! BRAVE AND CONFIDENT UNTIL THE END!

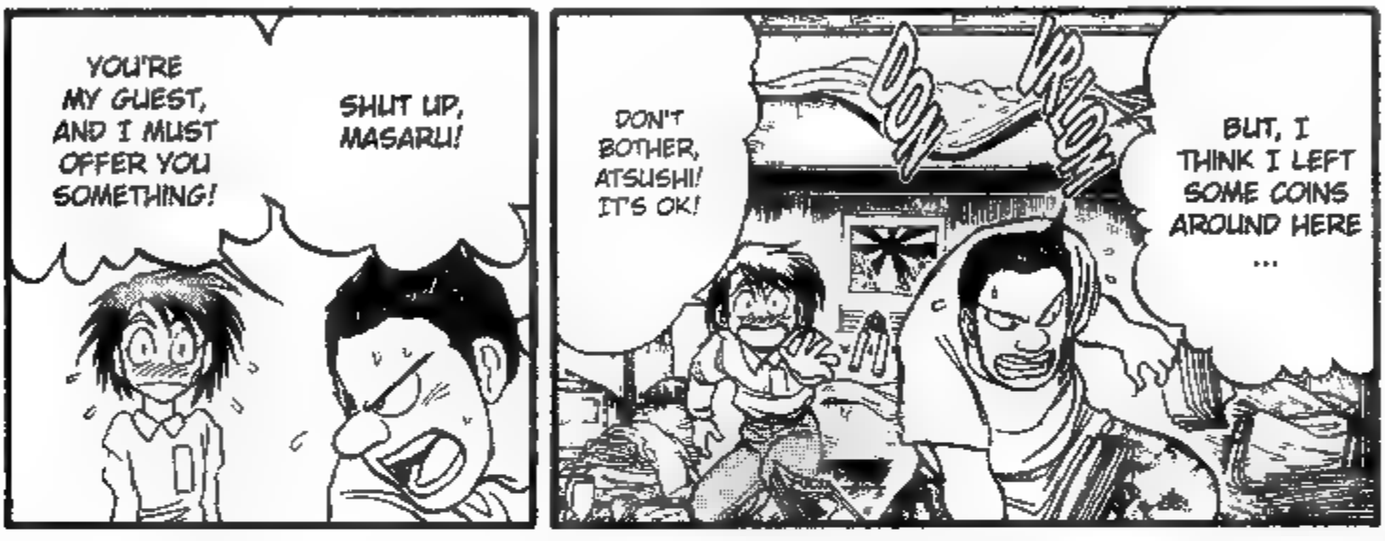

YOU KNOW ... ANYONE WOULD HAVE REACTED THE WAY YOU DID.

LISTEN, ATSUSHI ...
...

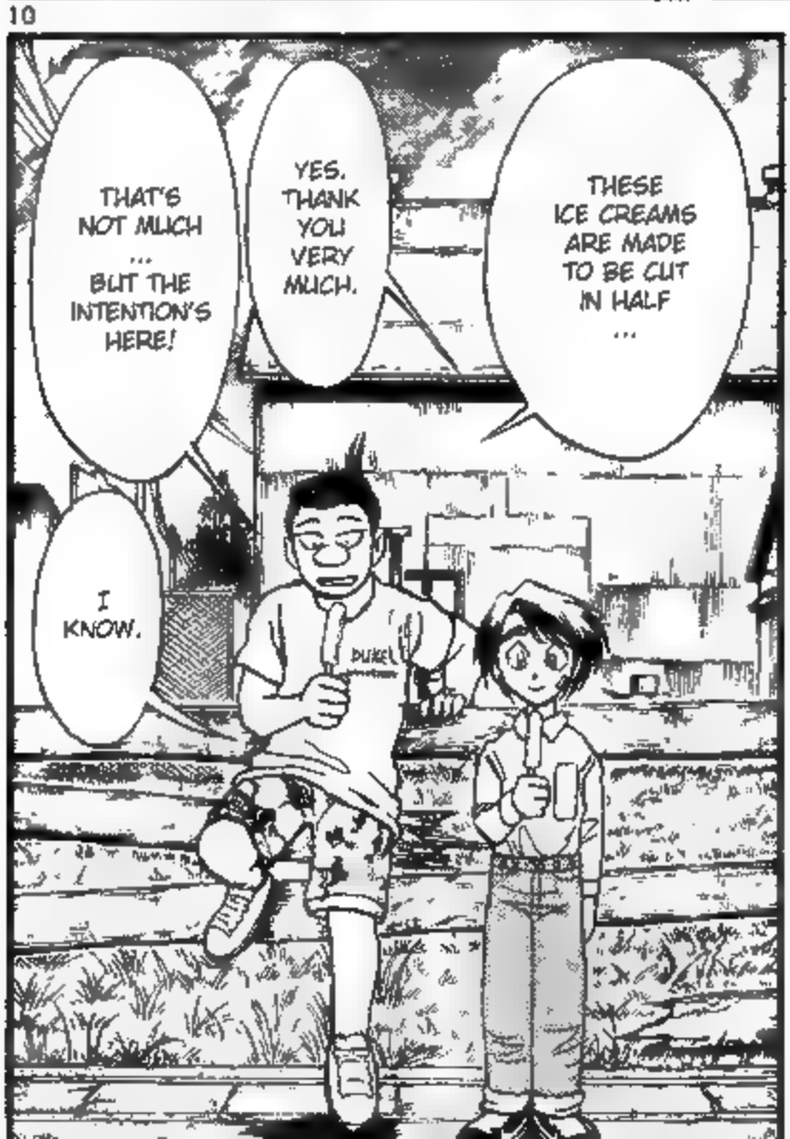
ON THE TRUCK, YOU DID EVERY-THING TO PROTECT US!
YOU WON'T

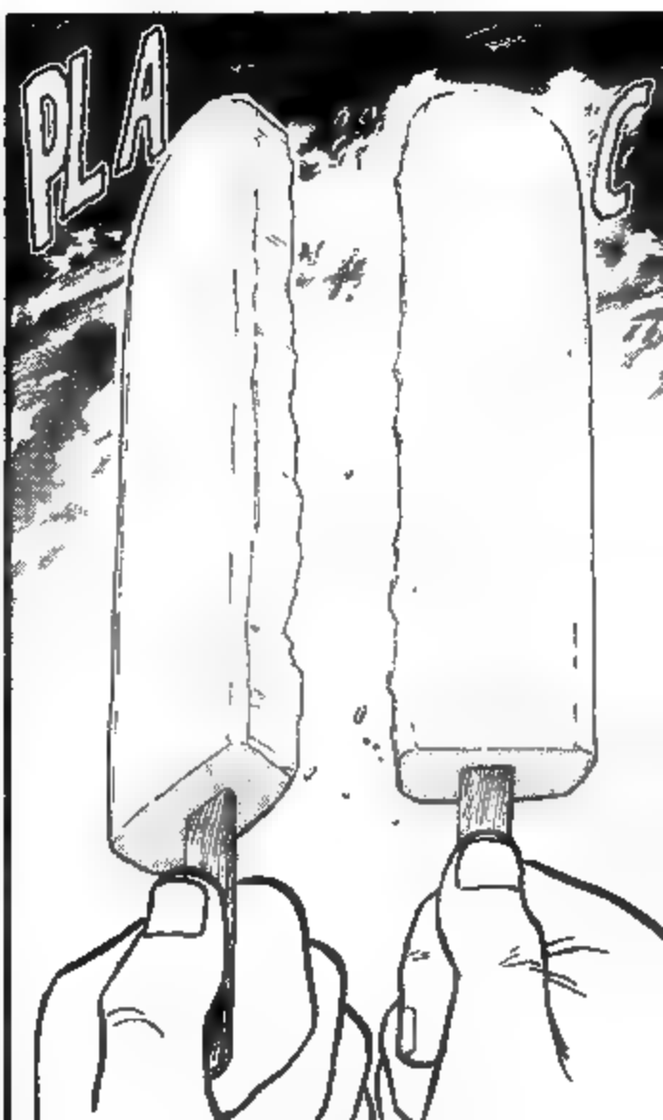

YOU'RE THE STRONGEST!
I TELL YOU ...

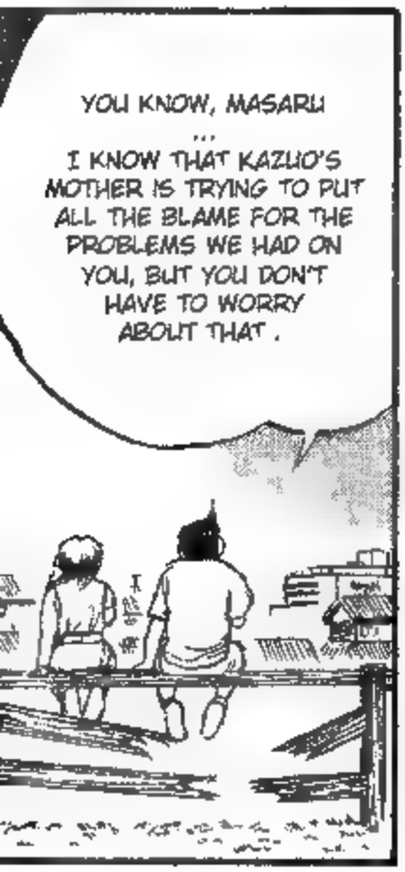
OK! LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE! I DON'T THINK I CAN OFFER YOU ANYTHING ACTUALLY, WE NEVER HAVE ANYTHING AT HOME!
NOT EVEN SYRUPS !


YOU'RE MY GUEST, AND I MUST OFFER YOU SOMETHING!
SHUT UP, MASARU!
DON'T BOTHER, ATSUSHI! IT'S OK!
DON
VROOM
BUT, I THINK I LEFT SOME COINS AROUND HERE ...

ATSUSHI! YOU KNOW, I CAN .
GOT IT!!
MASTER, ALWAYS KEEP SOME MONEY WITH YOU. YOU MIGHT NEED IT SOMEDAY
ZAWW
ZON
A WHILE AGO, I HAD PUT 100 YEN BEHIND THE CUPBOARD !
BATAN
DAN
GEEZ! THEY'RE NOT HERE !


THAT'S NOT MUCH ... BUT THE INTENTION'S HERE!
YES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THESE ICE CREAMS ARE MADE TO BE CUT IN HALF ...
I KNOW.


PLA


YOU KNOW, MASARU
...
I KNOW THAT KAZUO'S MOTHER IS TRYING TO PUT ALL THE BLAME FOR THE PROBLEMS WE HAD ON YOU, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

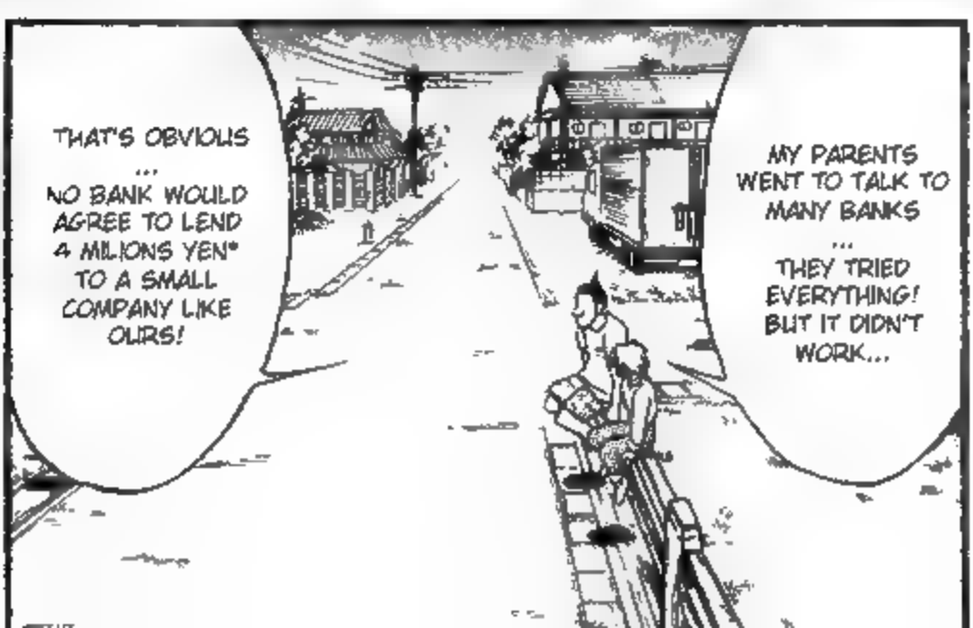
YEP.
THEY ARE VERY COOL!

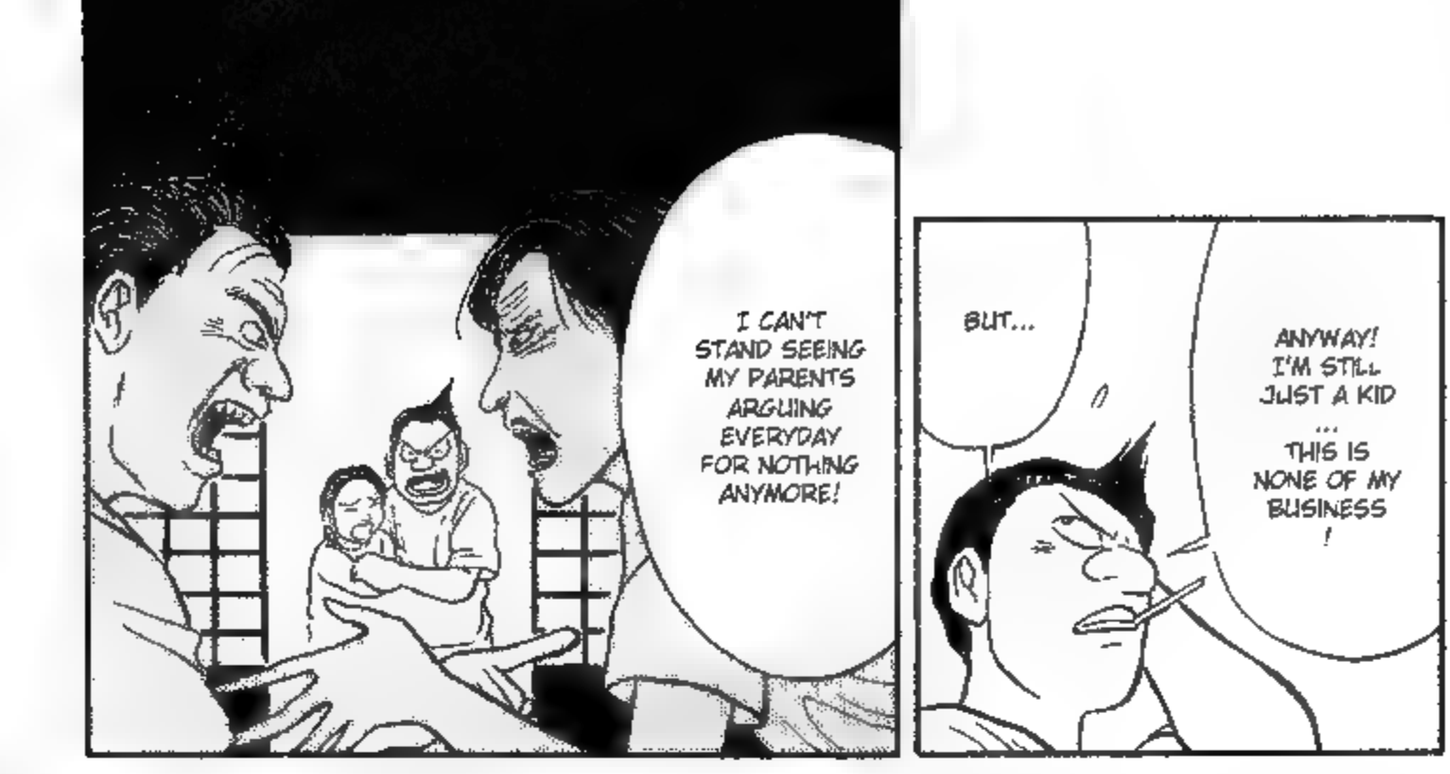
CROC

HA!
YOUR PARENTS MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE WORRIED ABOUT YOU, TOO
I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT MISS TAKEUCHI WAS VERY WORRIED ...
IT'S MY FAULT.
HOWEVER, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

HERE, WE MAKE NUTS, SCREWS, LITTLE STEEL PIECES.
A SHORT TIME AGO, OUR BIGGEST CUSTOMER WENT BANKRUPT. 90% OF OUR SALES TURNOVER!
WHY ?

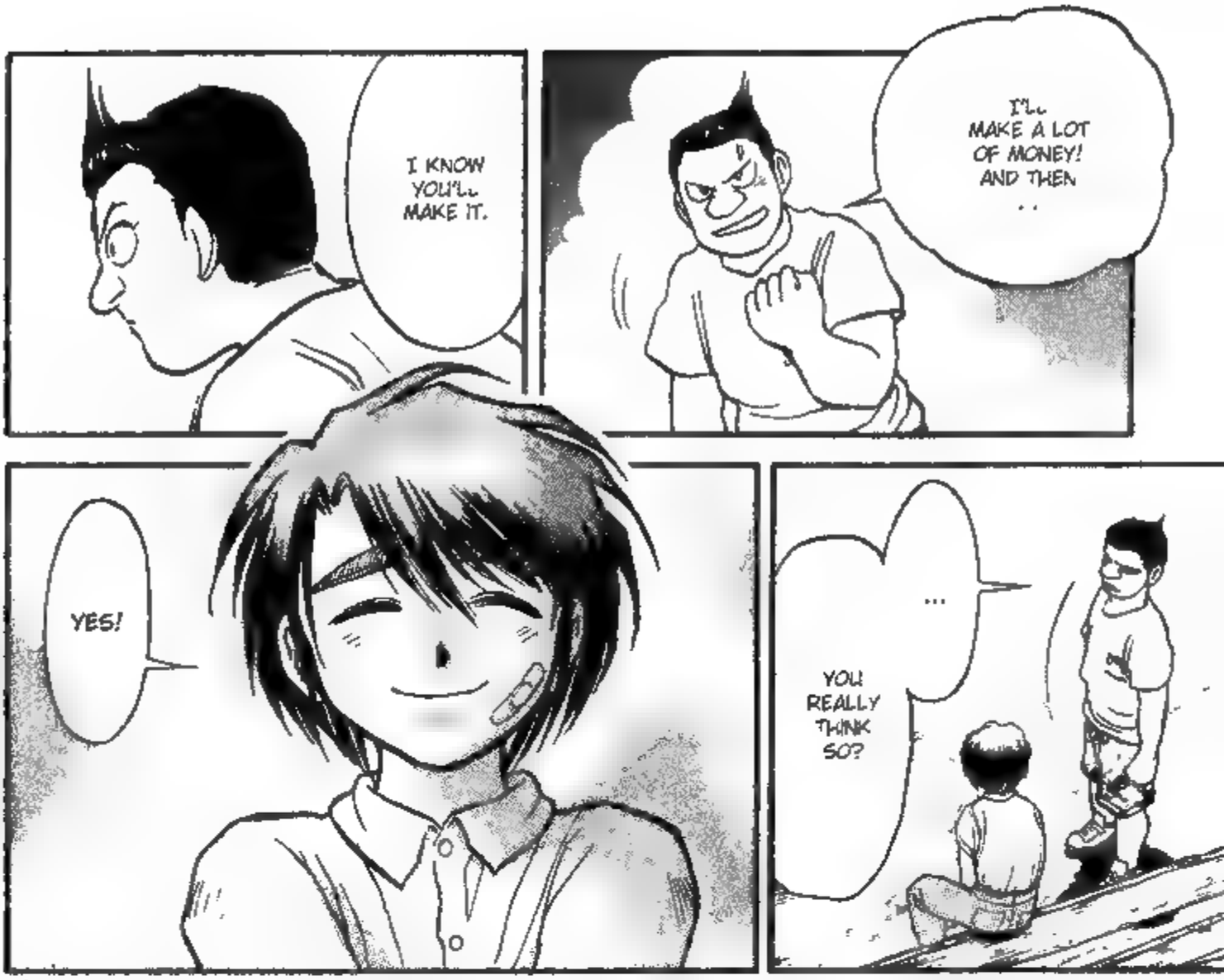
*AROUND 30 000 EUROS

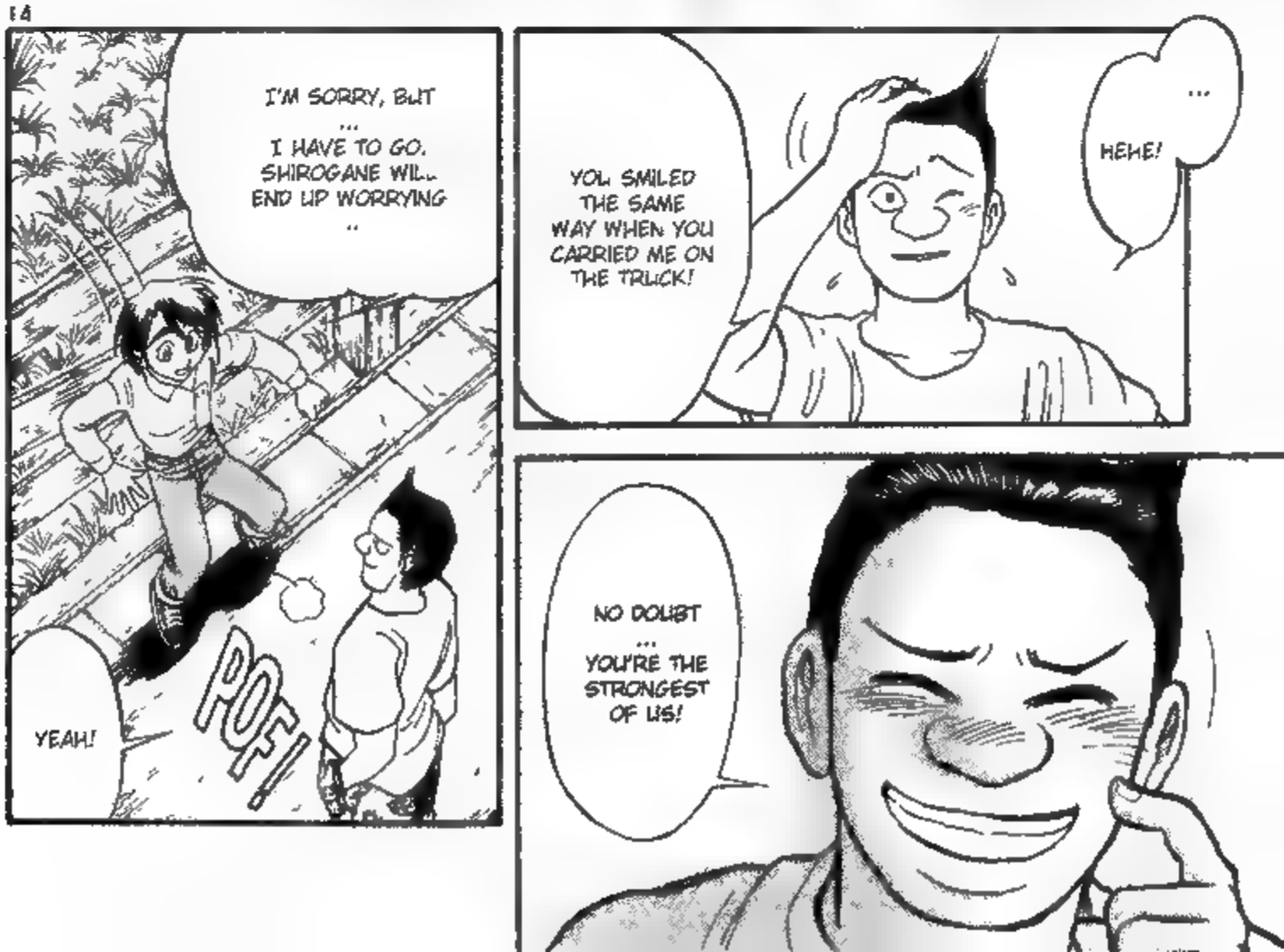

THAT'S OBVIOUS ...
NO BANK WOULD AGREE TO LEND 4 MILIONS YEN* TO A SMALL COMPANY LIKE OURS!
MY PARENTS WENT TO TALK TO MANY BANKS ...
THEY TRIED EVERYTHING! BUT IT DIDN'T WORK...

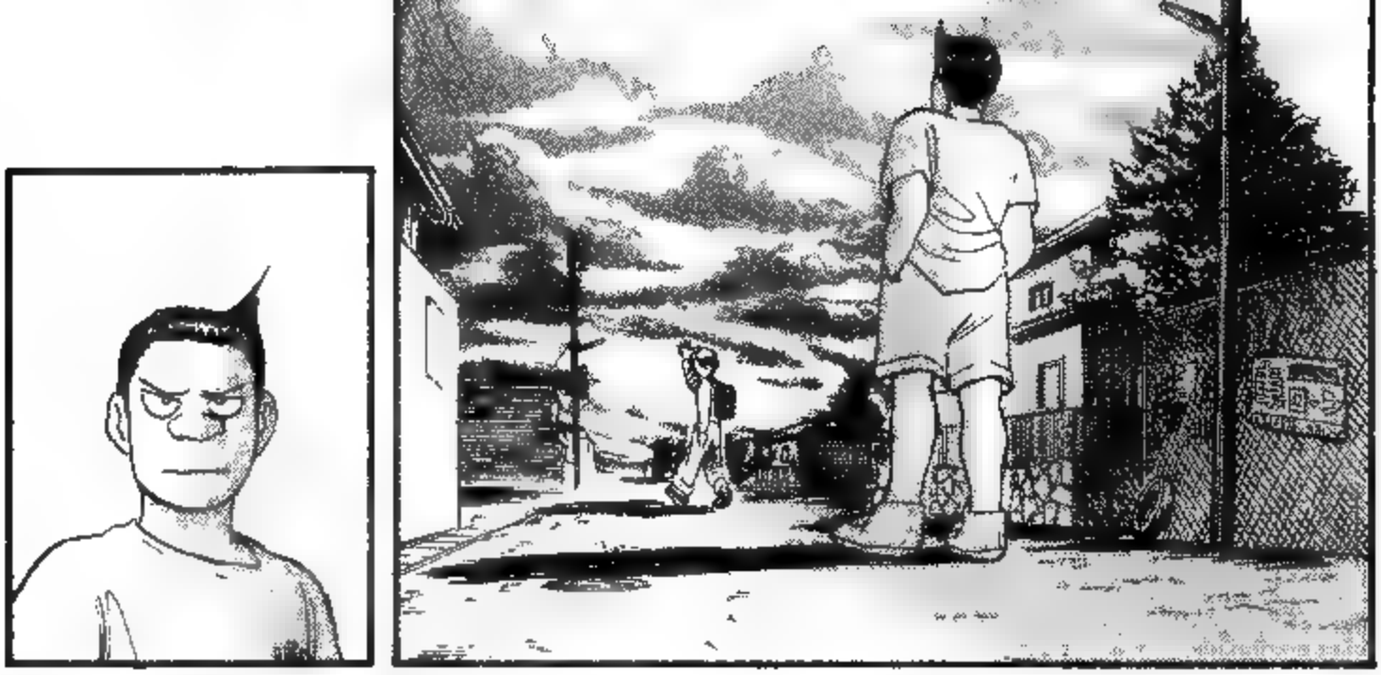

I CAN'T STAND SEEING MY PARENTS ARGUING EVERYDAY FOR NOTHING ANYMORE!
BUT...
ANYWAY! I'M STILL JUST A KID ... THIS IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS !

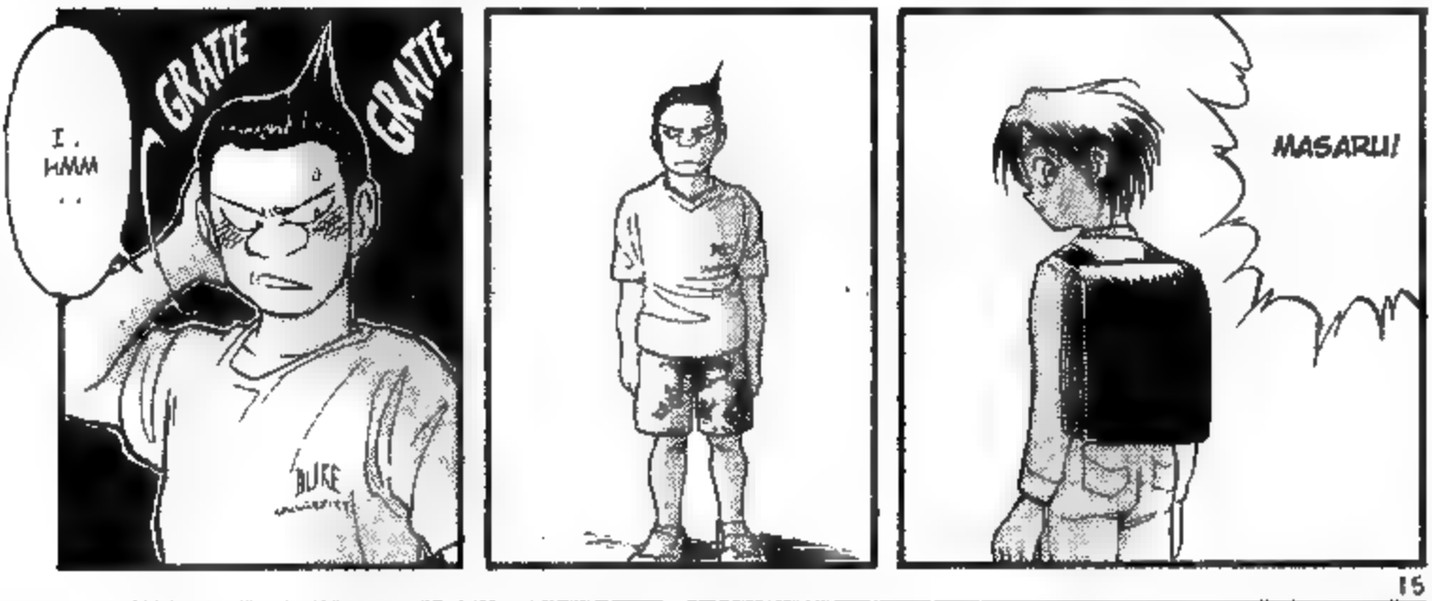
AND THEN WE WOULD EAT GOOD CURRY IN A RESTAURANT! THAT WAS AWESOME !
WE USED TO GO TO THE ZOO TOGETHER!
WE USED TO BE VERY CLOSE ...
WHEN OUR FACTORY WAS WORKING WELL ...

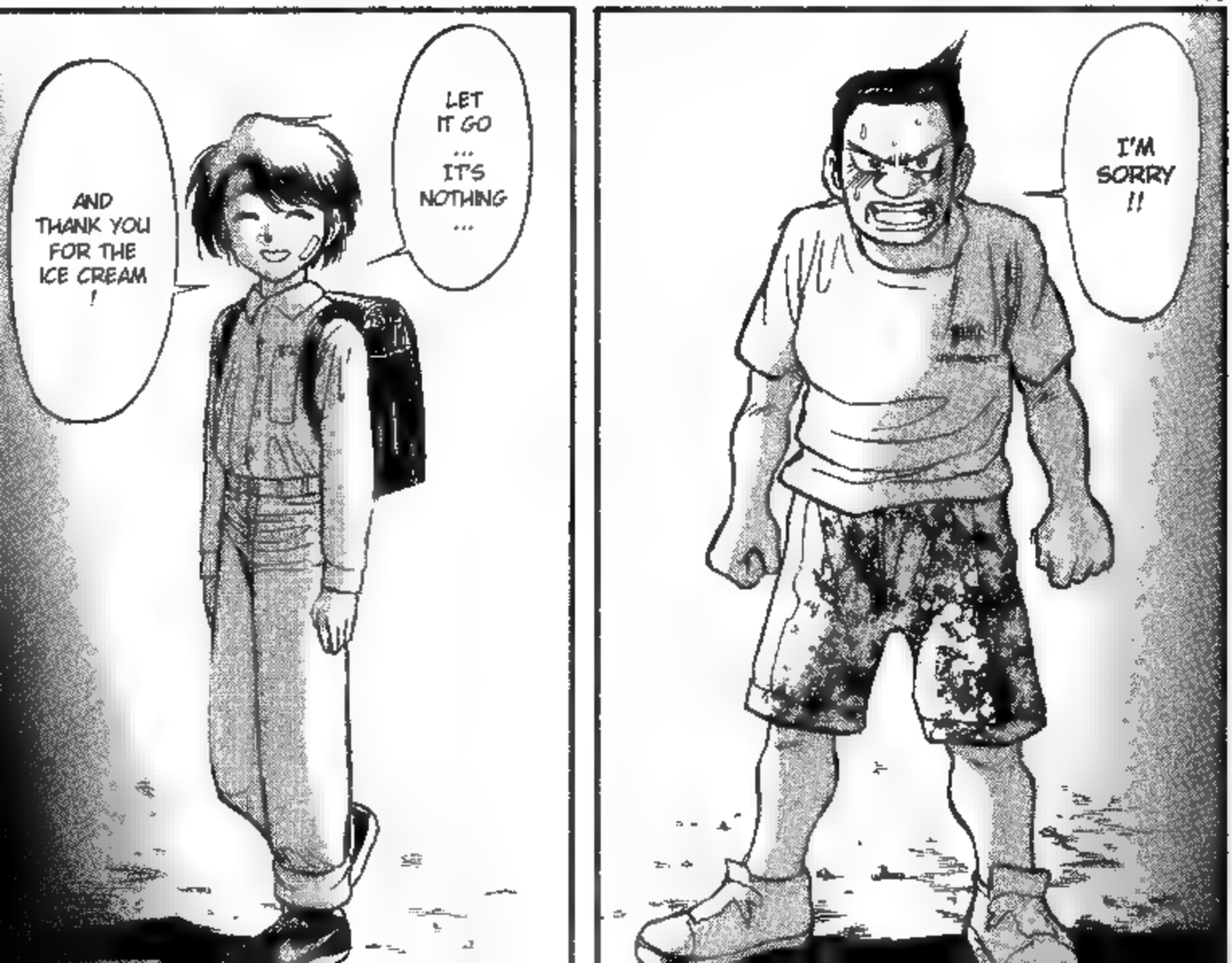
THAT WRESTLING WASN'T JUST A DREAM! THAT IT'S REAL!
I LIKED WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER ...
I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME A WRESTLER !
IF WE HAD MONEY ... WOULD EVERYTHING GO BACK TO HOW IT USED TO BE?
BUT, NOW ... WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE MONEY! AND WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE MONEY IN THIS WORLD, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING!

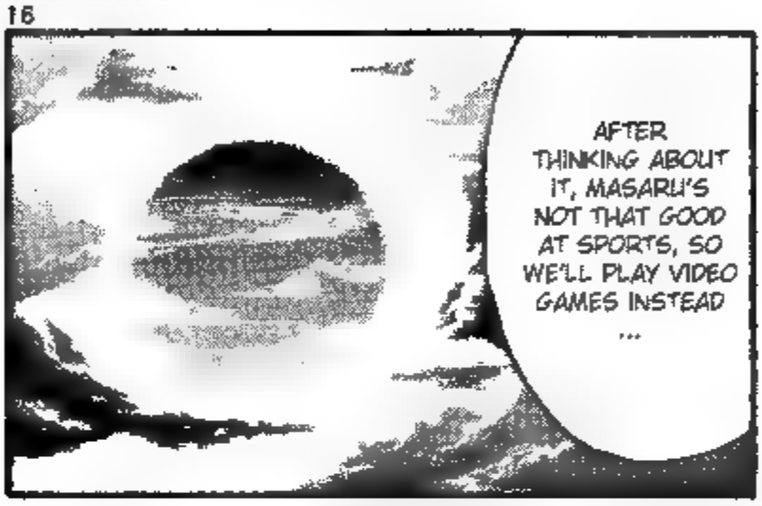

I KNOW YOU'LL MAKE IT.
I'LL MAKE A LOT OF MONEY! AND THEN ..
YES!
...
YOU REALLY THINK SO?


I'M SORRY, BUT ... I HAVE TO GO. SHIROGANE WILL END UP WORRYING ..
POF!
YEAH!
YOU SMILED THE SAME WAY WHEN YOU CARRIED ME ON THE TRUCK!
...
HEHE!
NO DOUBT ... YOU'RE THE STRONGEST OF US!




I . HMM . .
GRATTE
GRATTE
MASARU!


LET IT GO ... IT'S NOTHING ...
AND THANK YOU FOR THE ICE CREAM !
I'M SORRY !!

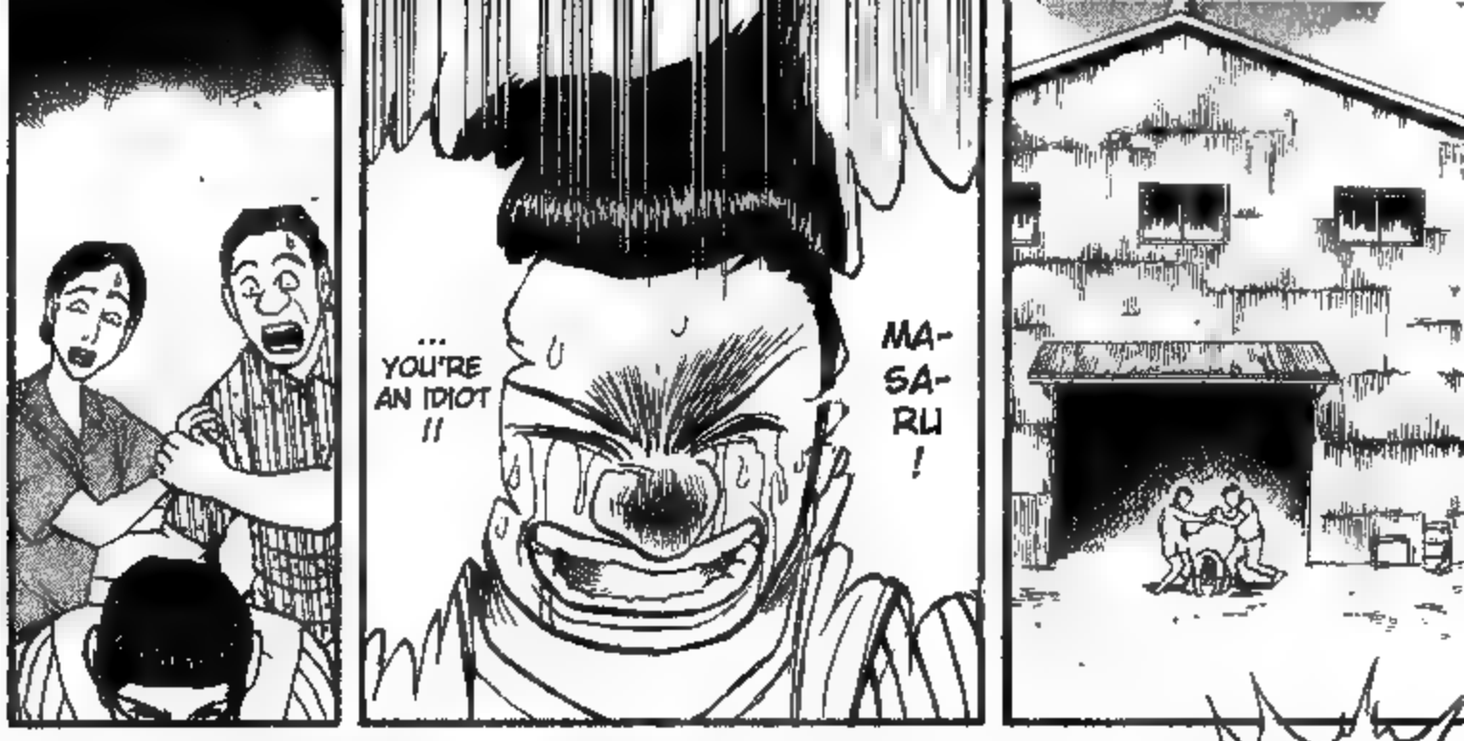

AFTER THINKING ABOUT IT, MASARU'S NOT THAT GOOD AT SPORTS, SO WE'LL PLAY VIDEO GAMES INSTEAD ...

TOMORROW, WE'LL PLAY SOCCER TOGETHER ... I PROMISE!

... DUE TO FAMILY MATTERS, MASARU SAIGA HAD TO MOVE AND LEAVE OUR SCHOOL.
I'M HERE TO INFORM YOU THAT ..

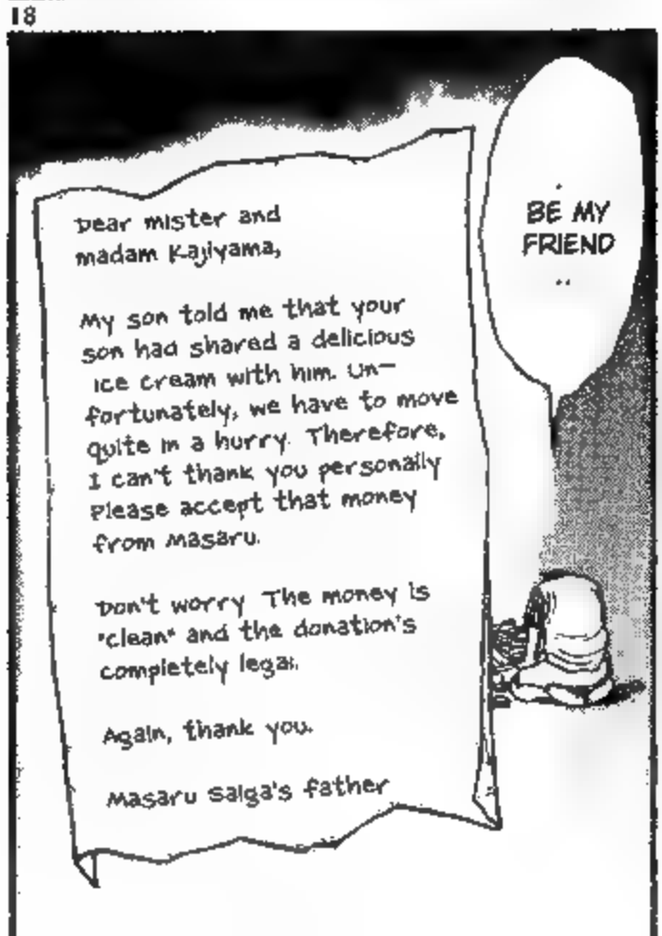
AND HE SPECIALLY WANTED TO SAY TWO THINGS :
HE WANTED TO SAY THAT HE WAS SAD FOR LEAVING THE CLASS WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO TALK TO YOU ...
EVEN MORE, NOW THAT HE HAD MANAGED TO MAKE SOME FRIENDS.
"AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH"
AND "TAKE CARE" ...

THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING MY LITTLE "MISSION", SHIROGANE ...
THAT WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO. BUT .. ARE YOU SURE YOU DID THE RIGHT THING ?
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT ...
BUT...
I REALLY WANTED TO HELP HIM.


MA-
SA-
RU
!
... YOU'RE AN IDIOT !!

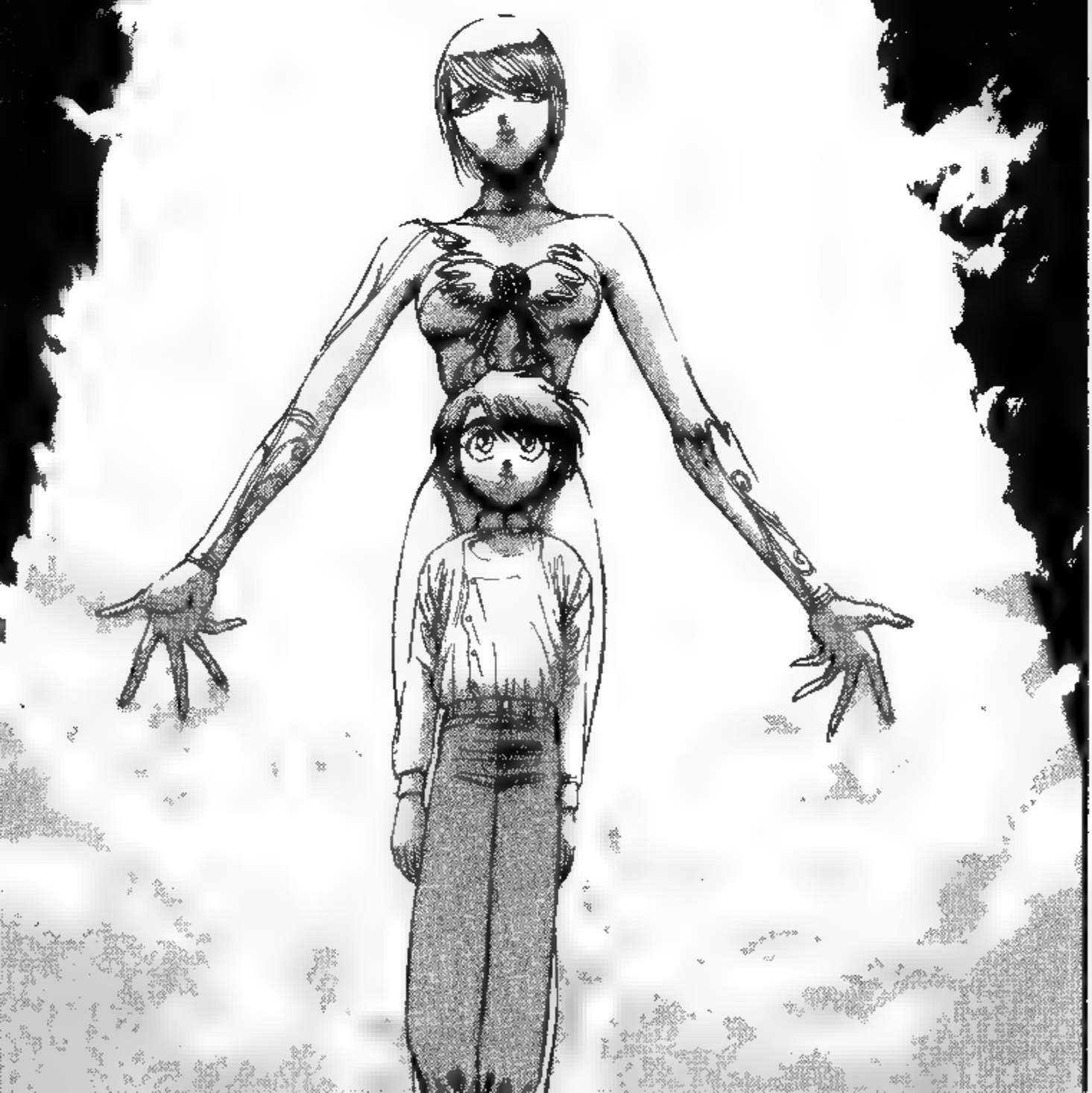
I DIDN'T OFFER YOU ICE CREAM FOR YOU TO DO THAT !!

WHO TOLD YOU TO DO THAT?! HEY!
I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT!

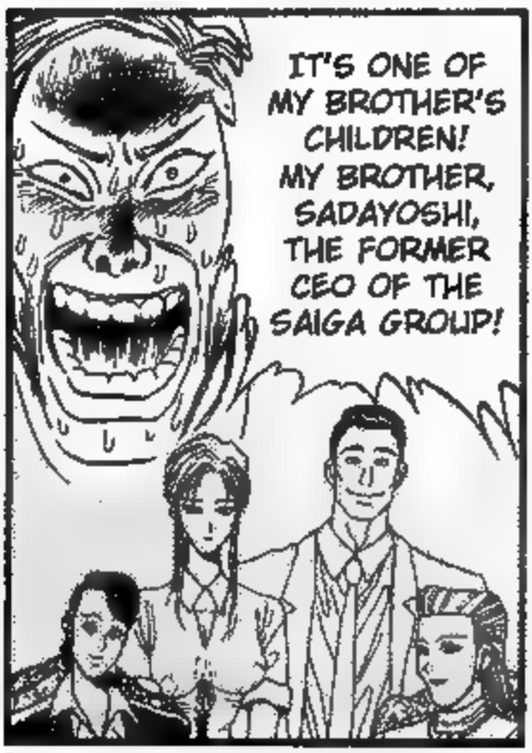

BE MY FRIEND ..
Dear mister and madam Kajiyama,
My son told me that your son had shared a delicious ice cream with him. Unfortunately, we have to move quite in a hurry. Therefore, I can't thank you personally Please accept that money from Masaru.
Don't worry. The money is "clean" and the donation's completely legal.
Again, thank you.
Masaru Saiga's father

I JUST WANTED YOU TO ...

ACT II : CIRCUS * DEPARTURE
CHAPTER TEN :
"THE CURTAIN GOES DOWN AGAIN"



SCLAC!!


IT'S ONE OF MY BROTHER'S CHILDREN! MY BROTHER, SADAYOSHI, THE FORMER CEO OF THE SAIGA GROUP!

BUT... I KNOW WHO JUST CALLED!
AGAIN, NO ONE ON THE LINE...

2

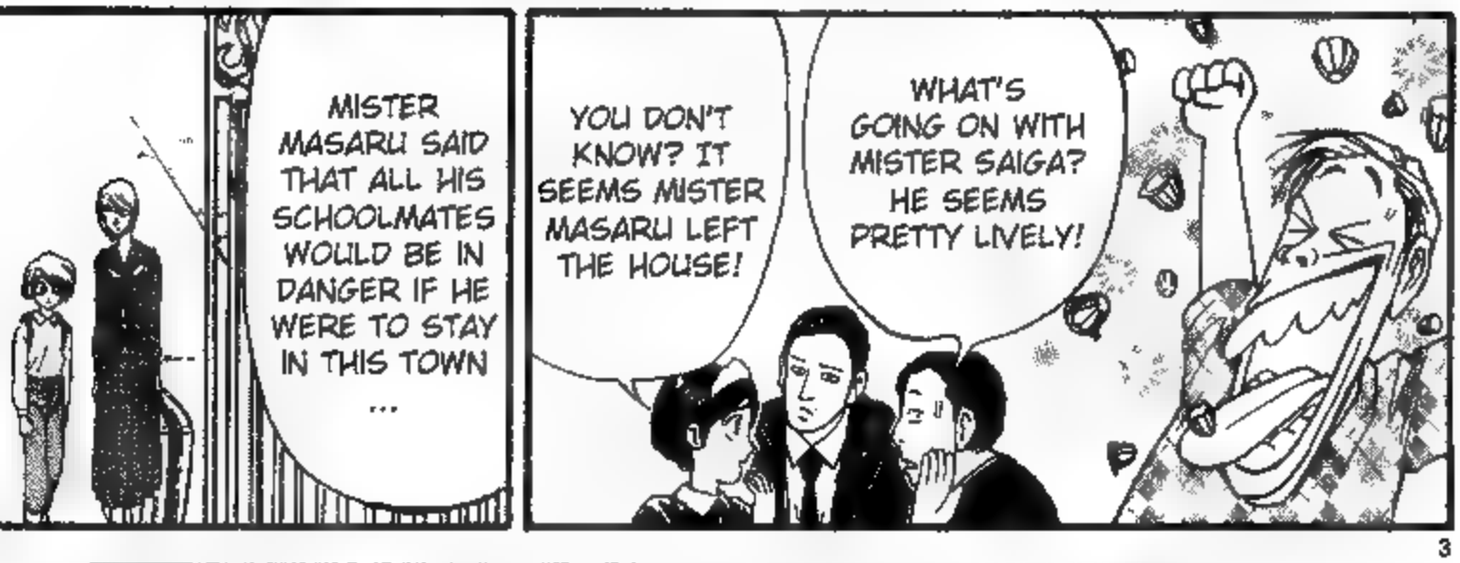
HUM... UNCLE ...

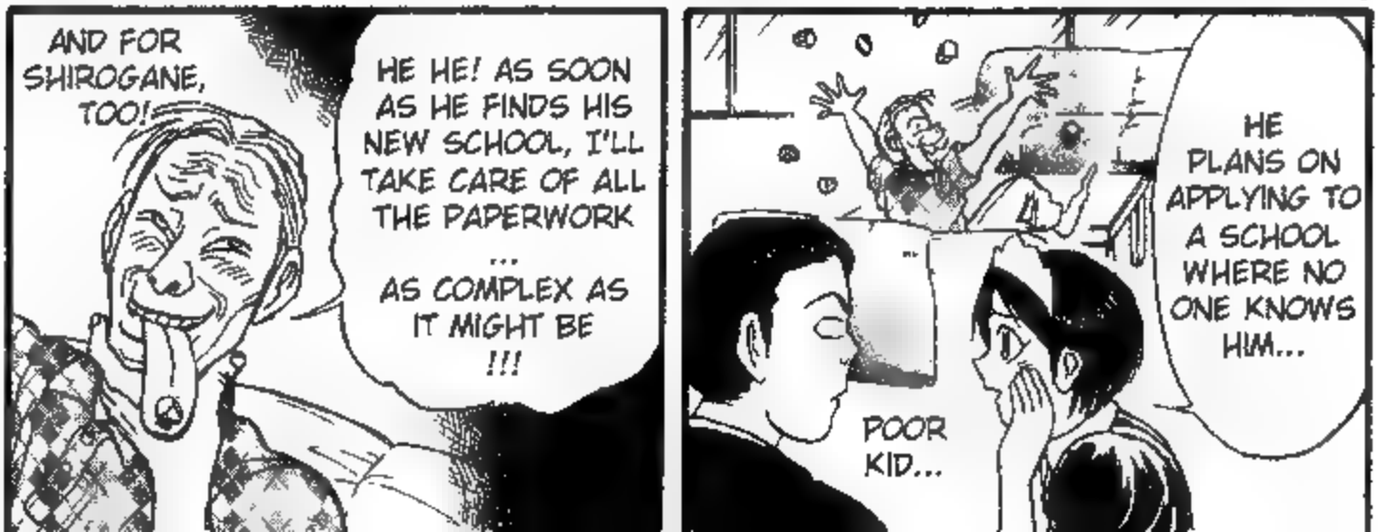
RIGHT NOW, I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT THEM ANYMORE.

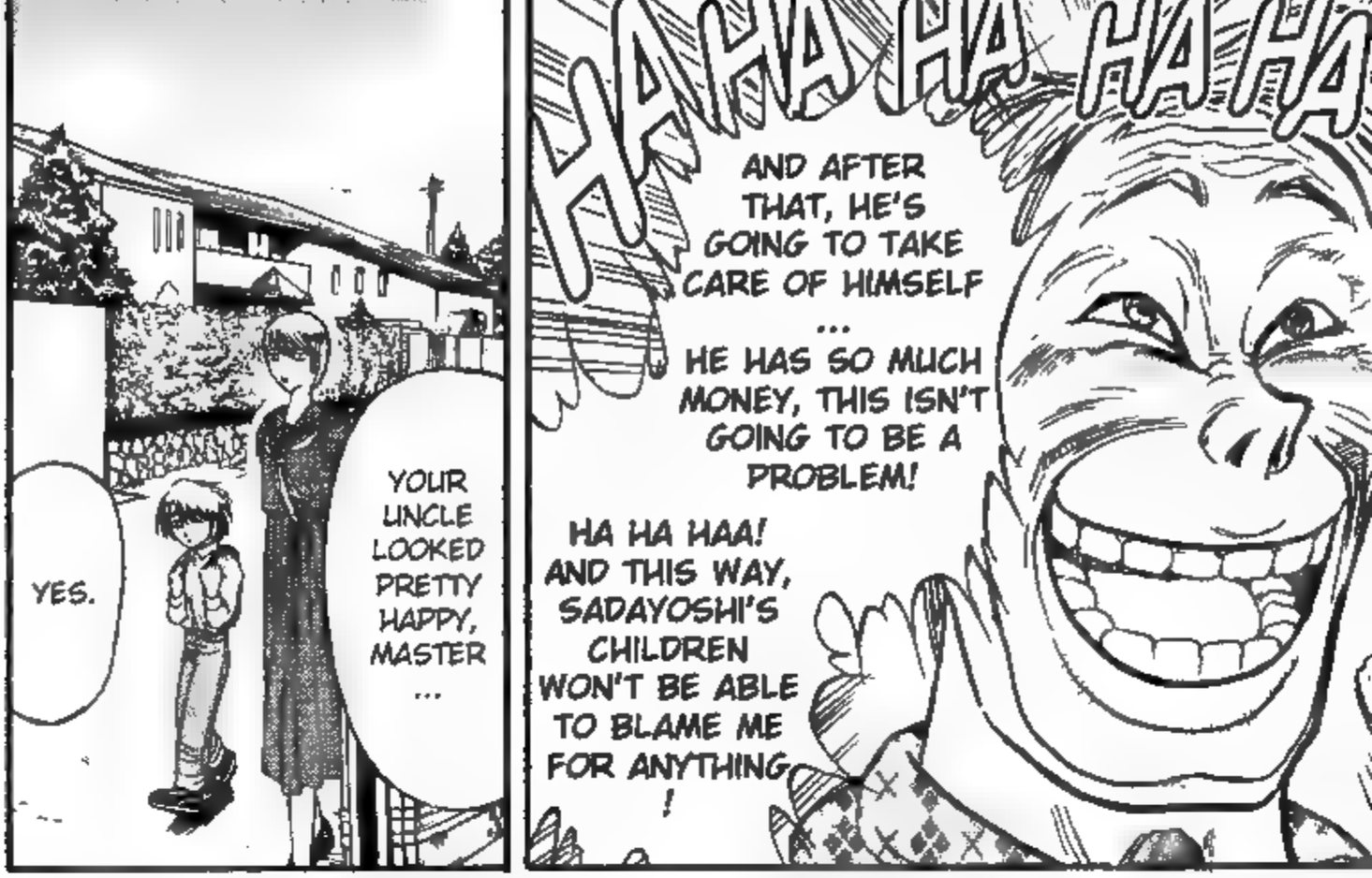
THEY'RE ALL DEAD JEALOUS!! THEY THINK MASARU STOLE HIS FATHER'S HERITAGE... AND SINCE I'M THE ONE WHO ADOPTED MASARU, THEY THINK I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT WITH HIS MONEY!
YES.
HURRY UP! GET THE STAWBERRY JELLY!
BUT THAT'S WRONG!

HM?
I'LL BE LEAVING THIS HOUSE ...
HAAA!! HA HA!! MMMM- ASARU!

YAHOOOOO


MISTER MASARU SAID THAT ALL HIS SCHOOLMATES WOULD BE IN DANGER IF HE WERE TO STAY IN THIS TOWN ...
YOU DON'T KNOW? IT SEEMS MISTER MASARU LEFT THE HOUSE!
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MISTER SAIGA? HE SEEMS PRETTY LIVELY!


AND FOR SHIROGANE, TOO!
HE HE! AS SOON AS HE FINDS HIS NEW SCHOOL, I'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL THE PAPERWORK ... AS COMPLEX AS IT MIGHT BE !!!
HE PLANS ON APPLYING TO A SCHOOL WHERE NO ONE KNOWS HIM...
POOR KID...

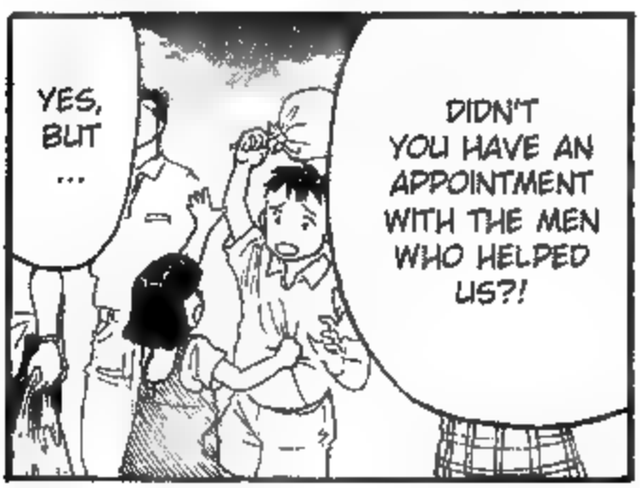

YOUR UNCLE LOOKED PRETTY HAPPY, MASTER ...
YES.
...
HA HA HA HA HA
AND AFTER THAT, HE'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF ... HE HAS SO MUCH MONEY, THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE A PROBLEM!
HA HA HAA! AND THIS WAY, SADAYOSHI'S CHILDREN WON'T BE ABLE TO BLAME ME FOR ANYTHING!

YES, THAT'S TRUE ... I WONDER WHETHER ALL THE ADULTS ARE LIKE THIS OR NOT ...

IT'S TRUE THAT WITH A LOT OF MONEY, YOU CAN DO A LOT OF THINGS, BUT...

THAT MAN'S OBSESSED WITH MONEY!
HE KEPT SAYING "YOU'RE SO RICH MASARU" ...
!

WHOA! THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE!
YES.
TODAY, THERE'S A FAIR IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.


DIDN'T YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE MEN WHO HELPED US?!
YES, BUT ...

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO NOW ?
TELL ME, SHIROGANE ...

I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK YOU'RE A LIAR!
BUT...

SHIROGANE! YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR WORD! IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!

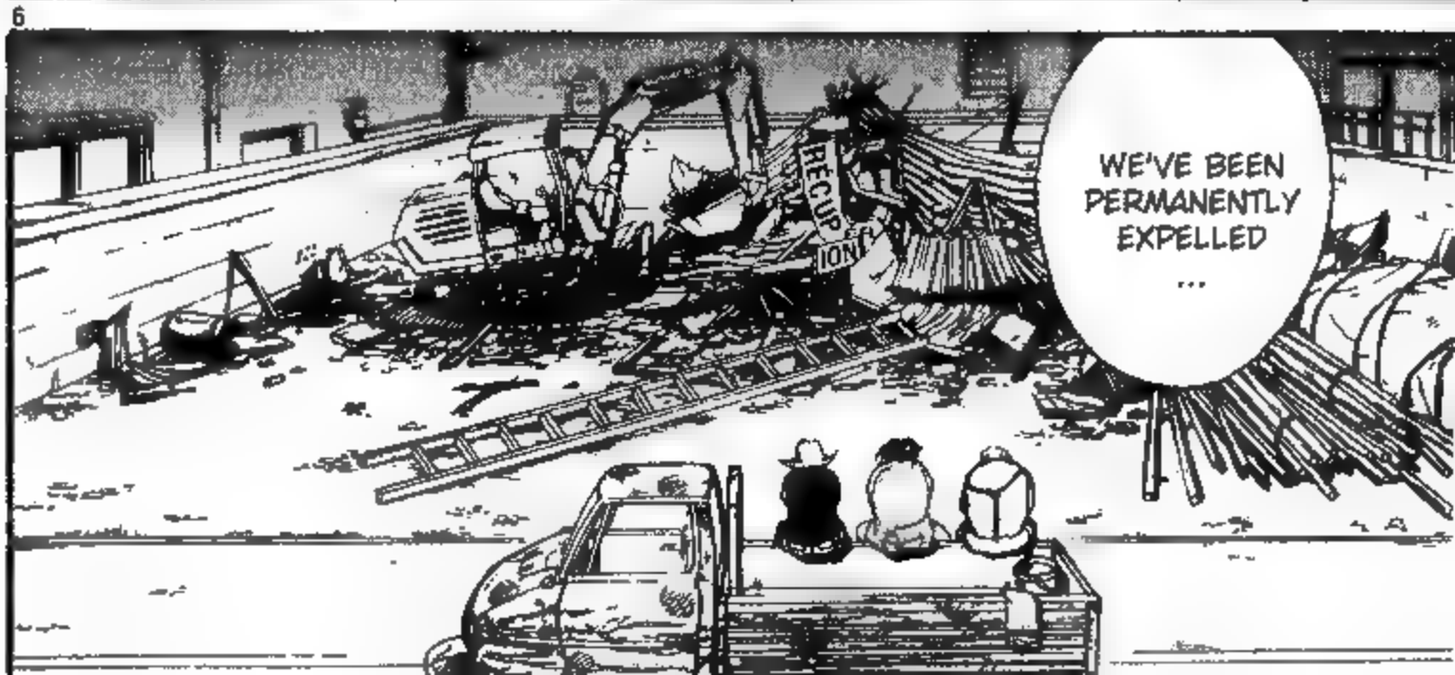
THEN YOU HAVE TO GO!
OUR SITUATION'S CHANGED. I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT ANYMORE ...
ALL THAT MATTERS IS BEING BY YOUR SIDE.

HURRY UP! LET'S GO SEE THEM IMMEDIATELY!
OKAY ...

THEY SAID THEY ARE CIRCUS ARTISTS ...

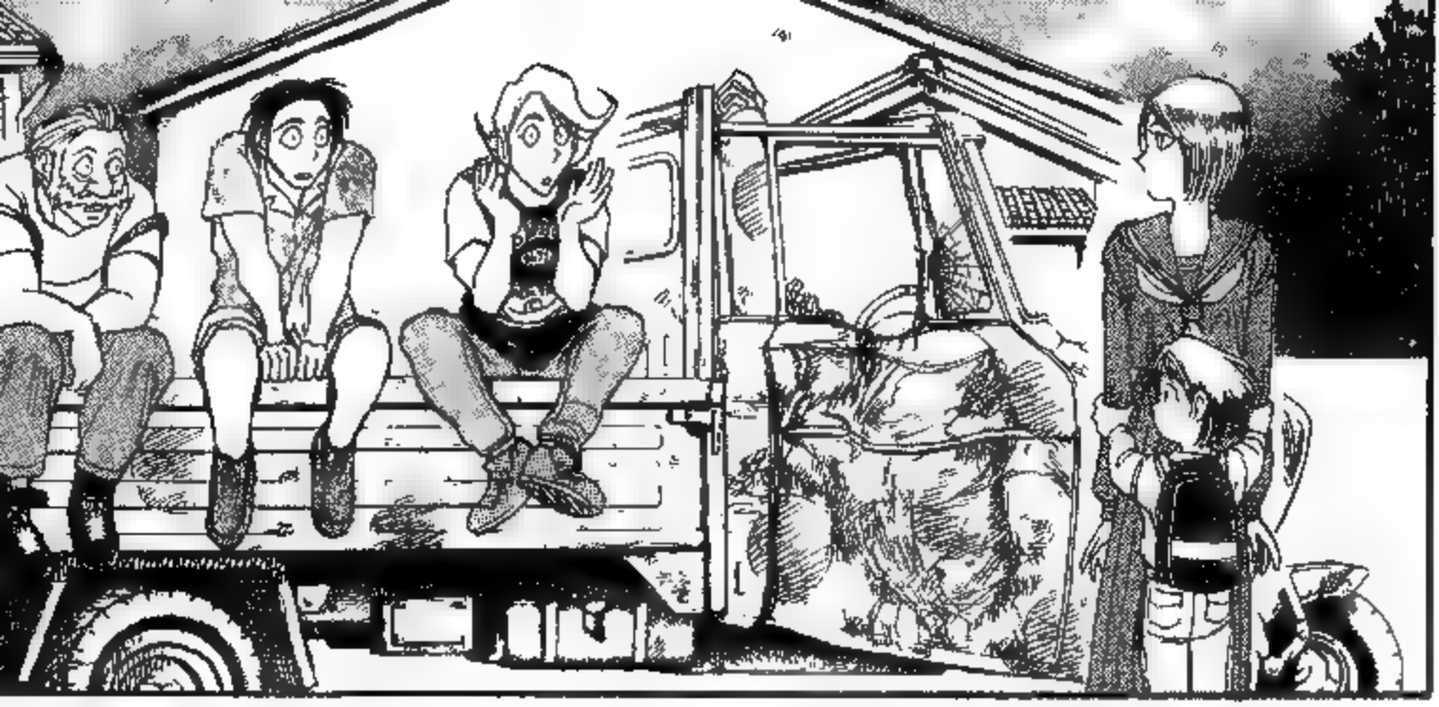
THE PARTY'S STARTED.
YEAH.
TALAN TAM TAM
HAHAHA

WHAT A PITY.
MISS SHIROGANE'S SUPPOSED TO COME TODAY ... WE WON'T BE ABLE TO WELCOME HER THE WAY SHE DESERVES.
BUT WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
PFIOU ...

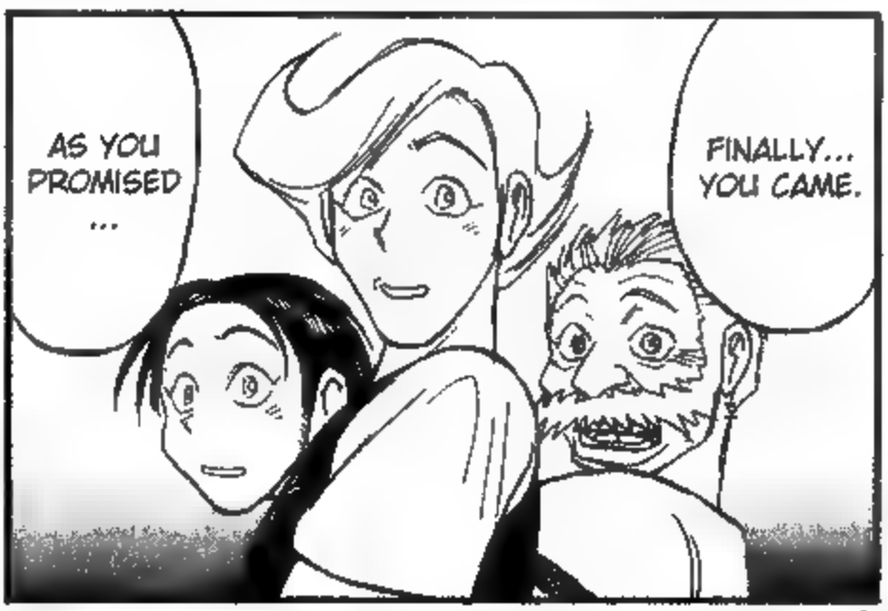

RECUP
ION
WE'VE BEEN PERMANENTLY EXPELLED ...

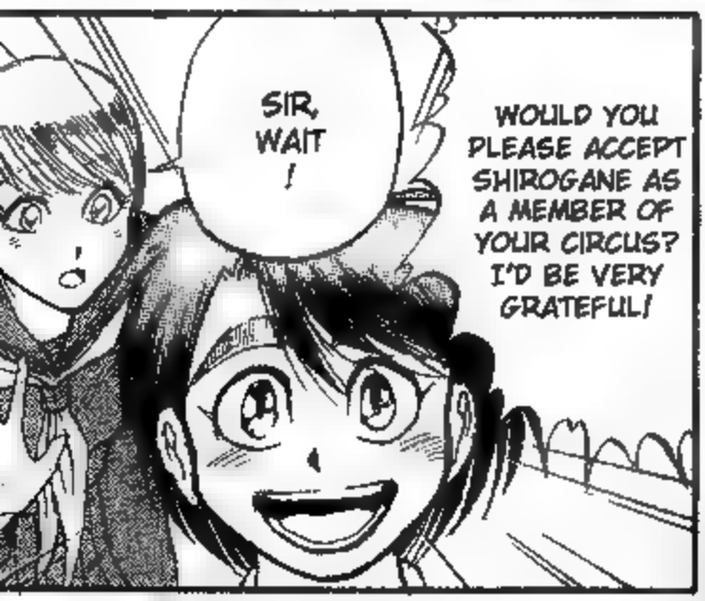
THEY TOOK OUR BIG TOP, AND THE WOOD STRUCTURE TO COMPENSATE THE UNPAID RENT...
EVEN SO, THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO DEMOLISH EVERYTHING !!
THEY SHOULD BE ... WE HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING THE RENT FOR MORE THAN A YEAR NOW!
LOOKS LIKE THE OWNERS ARE REALLY MAD AT YOU, BOSS!
KIDS ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN ANIME AND VIDEO GAMES ... THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT CIRCUSES!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO START OVER A NEW CIRCUS ?!
HA HA HA
... IS REALLY AWESOME !
THE CIRCUS ...
CLAP CLAP
FLAP
IS IT A SIGN FROM DESTINY? TO TELL ME TO GIVE UP MY CIRCUS ?

THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY, TOO! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S NORMAL?!
DON'T SAY THAT! YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE FIGHTING TO SAVE MINE!
SIR, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CARE ABOUT WHAT I LIKE AND WHAT I DON'T!
YOU USED TO BE IN A CIRCUS, SHIROGANE !
IT MEANS YOU LIKE IT, TOO!
TO FIND OUT WHAT WOULD MAKE HER LAUGH ...
TO GUESS WHAT SHIROGANE WOULD LIKE ...
THAT'S WHAT I'M ALWAYS TRYING TO DO ...
8
YOU HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS!!
PLEASE! IF YOU REALLY LIKE THE CIRCUS, YOU MUST ACCEPT IT !
I DON'T WANT SHIROGANE TO SPEND ALL HER TIME PROTECTING ME...
I WANT HER TO TAKE CARE OF HER-SELF, TOO!
IF SHE LOOKS SO SAD, IT'S BECAUSE NARUMI DISAPPEARED FOREVER.
... TRY TO FORGET ABOUT NARUMI ... EVEN IF WE FEEL SAD ABOUT THAT ...
THEREFORE... WE HAVE TO...

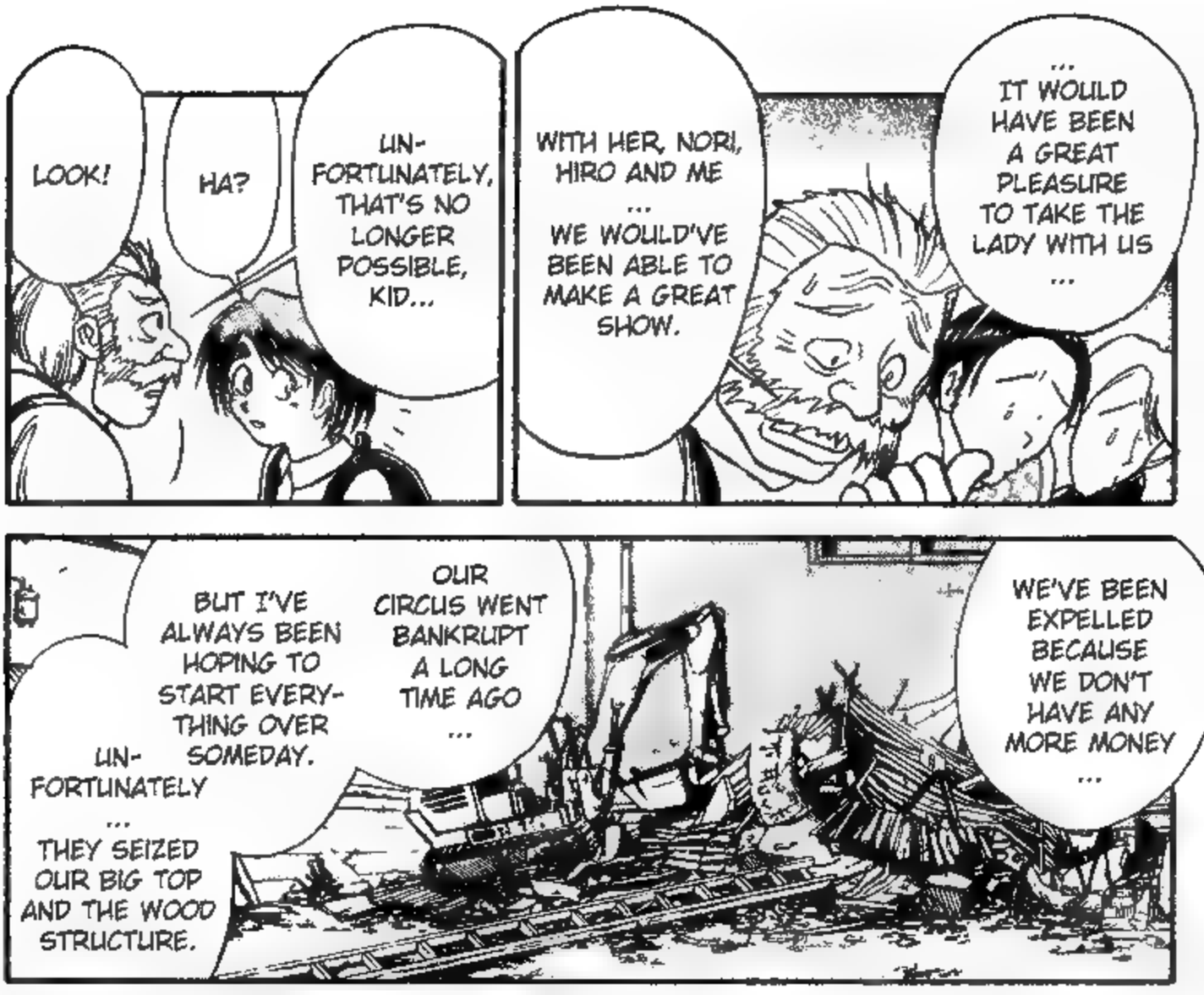


THANKS AGAIN FOR THE OTHER DAY.


AS YOU PROMISED ...
FINALLY... YOU CAME.

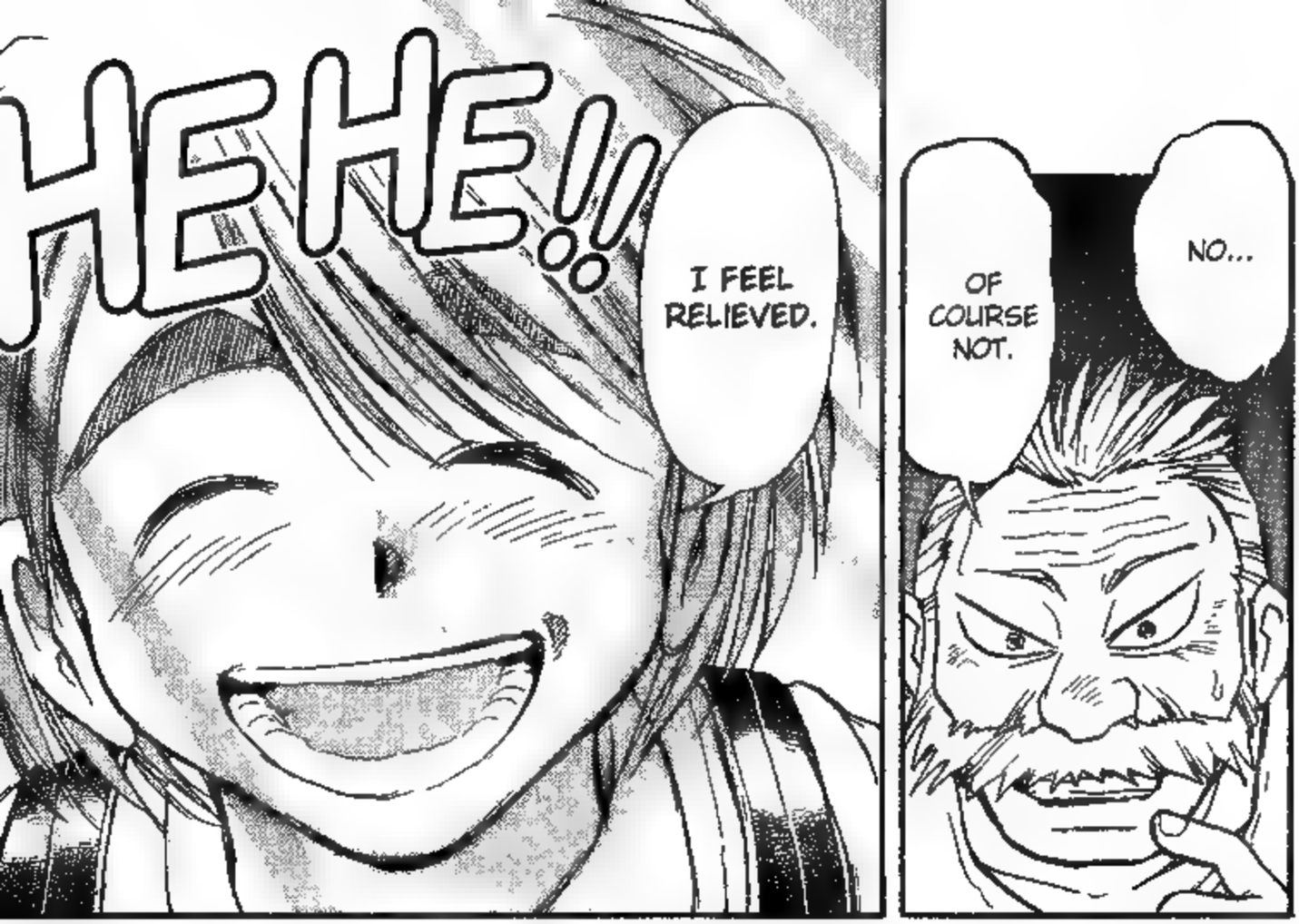

SIR, WAIT !
WOULD YOU PLEASE ACCEPT SHIROGANE AS A MEMBER OF YOUR CIRCUS? I'D BE VERY GRATEFUL!

HELLO! MY NAME'S MASARU!
TAN!
THESE THREE MEN ARE TRUE CIRCUS ARTISTS!


LOOK!
HA?
UN-FORTUNATELY, THAT'S NO LONGER POSSIBLE, KID...
WITH HER, NORI, HIRO AND ME ... WE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A GREAT SHOW.
... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE TO TAKE THE LADY WITH US ...
OUR CIRCUS WENT BANKRUPT A LONG TIME AGO ...
BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HOPING TO START EVERY-THING OVER SOMEDAY.
UN-FORTUNATELY ... THEY SEIZED OUR BIG TOP AND THE WOOD STRUCTURE.
WE'VE BEEN EXPELLED BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE MONEY ...

MISTER NAKAMACHI, WHEN PEOPLE GO TO THE CIRCUS, THEY DON'T GO TO SEE THE BIG TOP ... DO THEY?

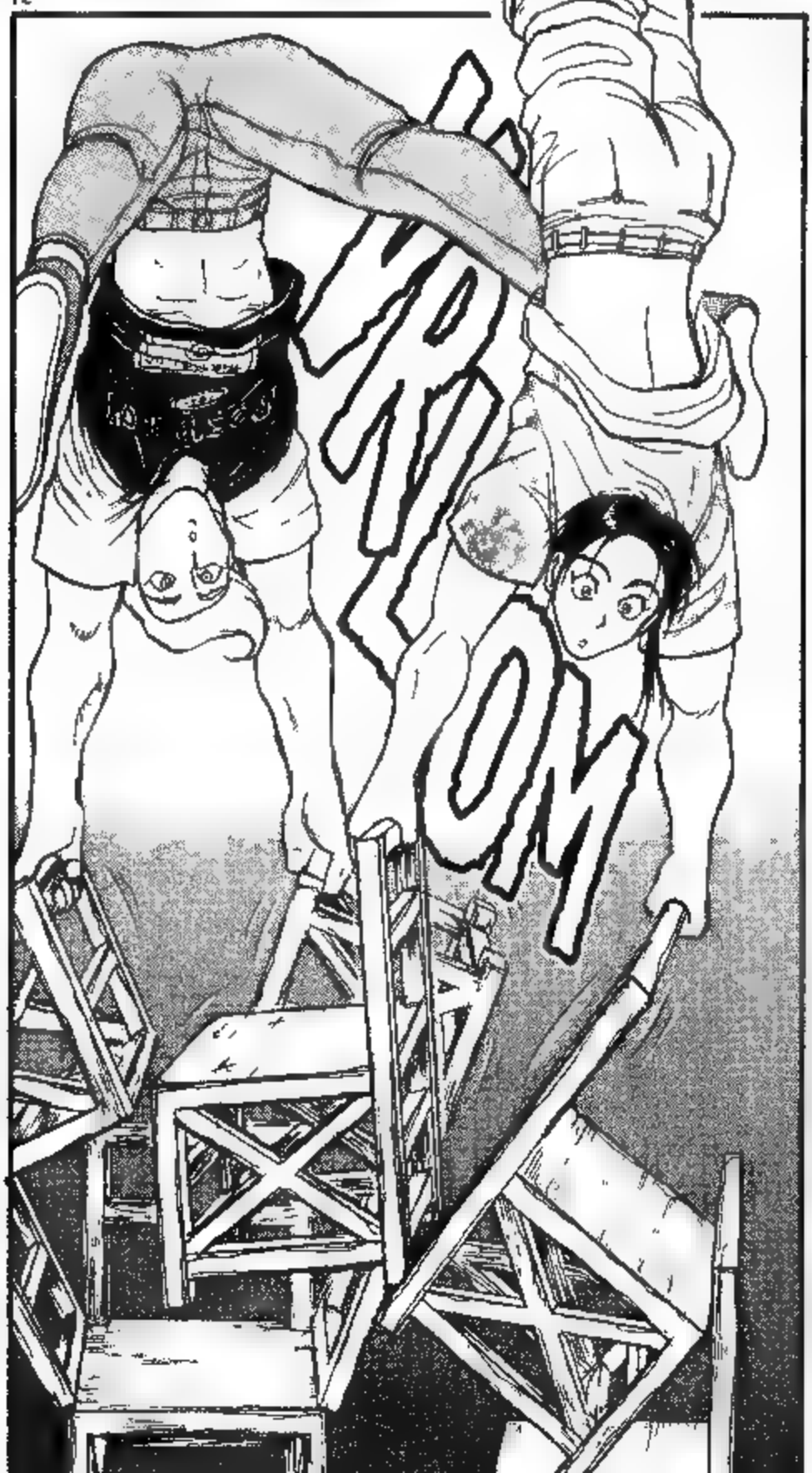
HM ...
DID I SAY SOME-THING STUPID ?


HEHE!!
I FEEL RELIEVED.
NO...
OF COURSE NOT.

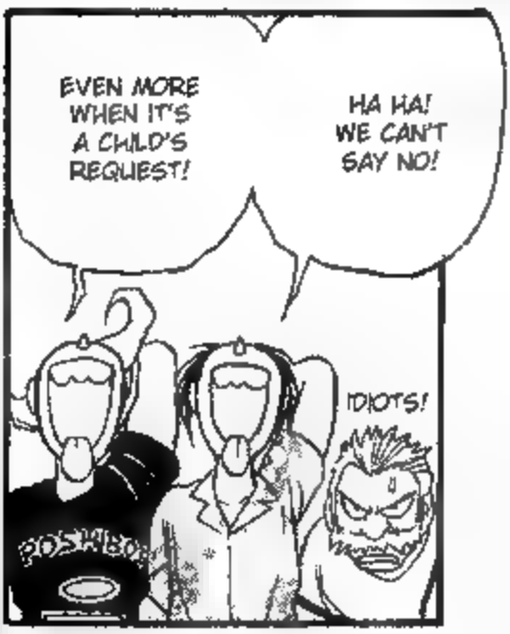
SIR... I HAVEN'T ACCEPTED YET!
...SHIRO-GANE?

THE CIRCUS ISN'T JUST A HOBBY. OUR LIFE ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS YOU SEEM TO THINK... IT REQUIRES MANY SACRIFICES.
COME ON, LITTLE BOY, YOU'RE BOTHERING THE LADY.
IT'S IMPORTANT! SAY YES!
I BEG YOU, YOU HAVE TO DO THAT!!

HN?!
COULD YOU SHOW ME WHAT YOU DO IN THE CIRCUS?
LOVE
EASY, BABY! SHE MUST'VE SEEN HOW SERIOUS I AM. SHE'LL LOVE THAT!
LOVE
JOB DONE! ACTING ATTENTIVE LIKE I DID, I'M SURE SHE'S GONNA THINK I'M VERY COOL!
HE HE


KRRLOM

HE HE
HE HE


EVEN MORE WHEN IT'S A CHILD'S REQUEST!
HA HA! WE CAN'T SAY NO!
IDIOTS!

GOH

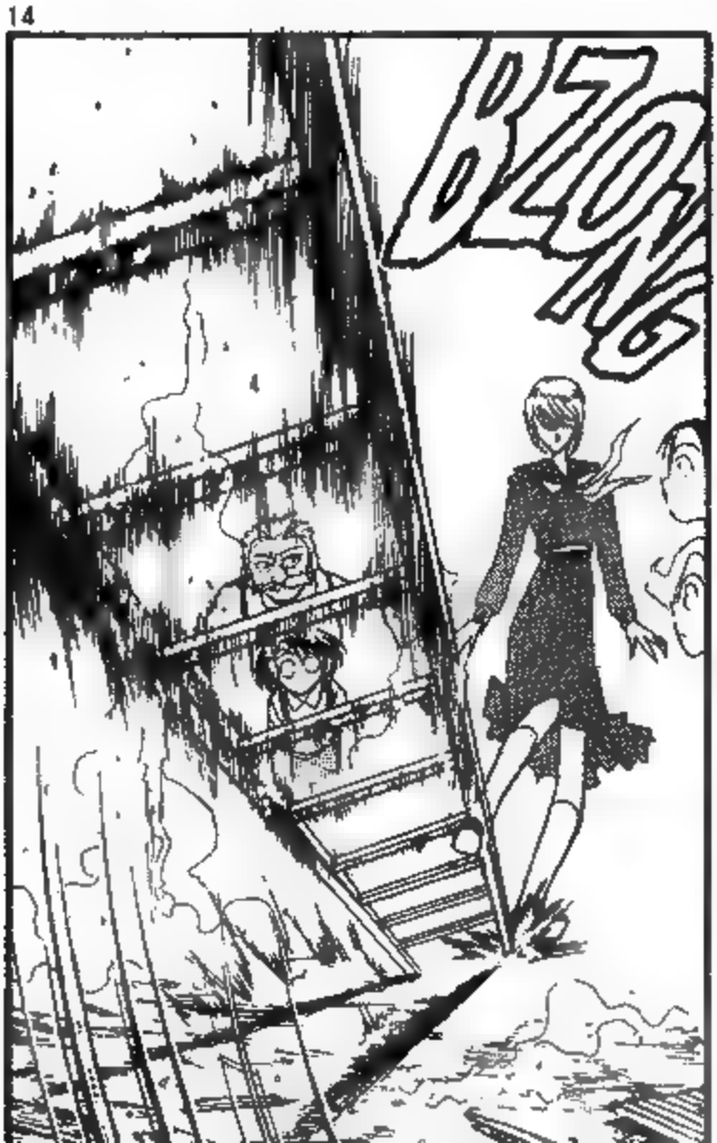
SAH
I USED TO BE CALLED APOLLO AMONG THE EQUILI-BRISTS !
YEARS OF PRACTICE HAVE PERFECTLY MODELED MY BODY!
SAH
...!
HOP!
HEHE!
HM ...

THEY'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS I KNOW.
THESE PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT.

GASP
GASP
GASP
GASP

AND THEY'RE NOT SUCCEEDING THANKS TO MONEY ... BUT ONLY THANKS TO A LOT OF PATIENT PRACTICE!
THEY CAN DO AMAZING THINGS WITH THEIR BODY WITHOUT RELYING ON ANYTHING OR ANYBODY!

14


BZONG

YOUR TURN TO SHOW SOMETHING!
SHIRO-GANE ...

MY PLEASURE, SIR.

SSA

H

AN

OOHH

TAK

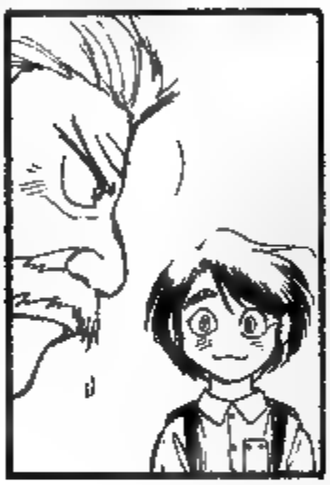
TAK

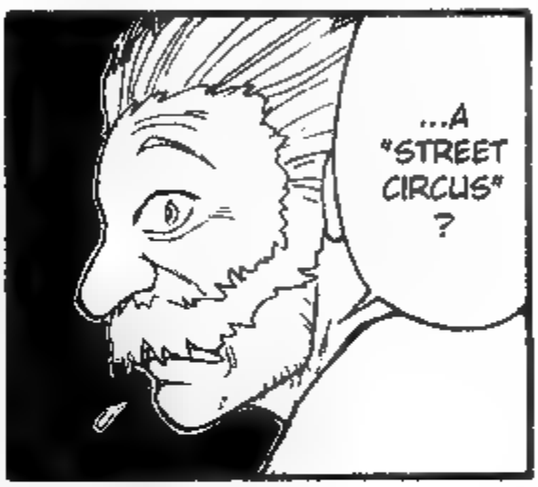
TAK

WH
I SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
WOW! IT'S THE FIRST TIME
LOOK CAREFULLY! ONLY A CONFIRMED EQUILIBRIST CAN PERFORM SUCH A SHOW!
SPOF
OU AIS
I WAS RIGHT
SHE'S AN AMAZING ARTIST !!

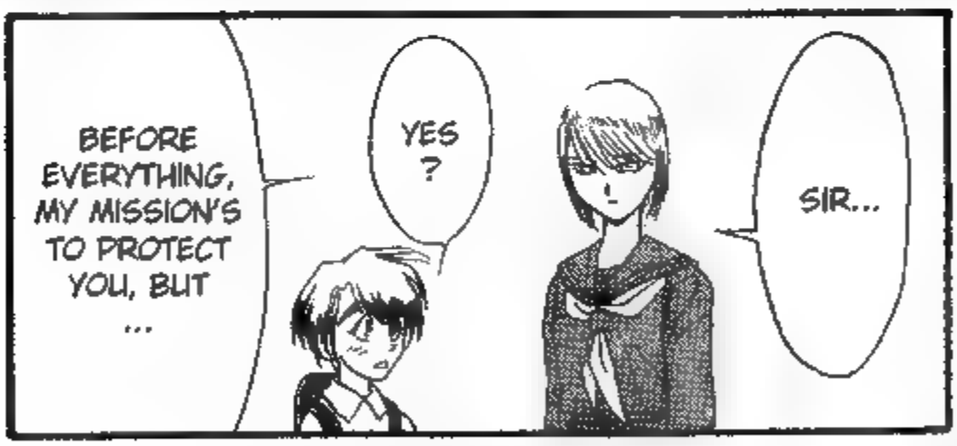
IT'S A STREET CIRCUS !
NO...
WE DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE TRAVELLING ACROBATS AROUND HERE!
GREAT !
HOURRA
CLAP CLAP CLAP
OUAIS
AMAZING !
CLAP

BRAVO!
YES... WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO SEE AT THE CIRCUS... ISN'T THE BIG TOP...



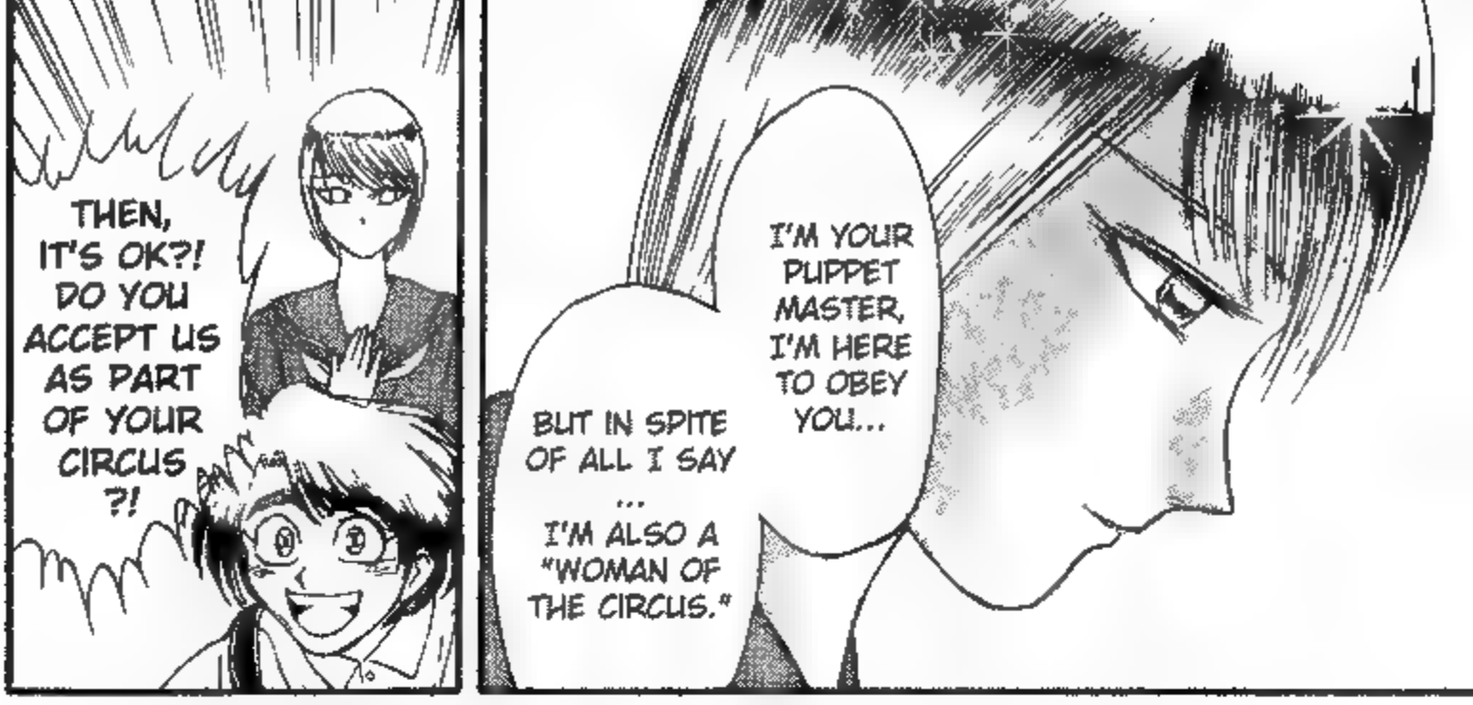

...A "STREET CIRCUS" ?

17


BEFORE EVERYTHING, MY MISSION'S TO PROTECT YOU, BUT ...
YES ?
SIR...

...I'LL BE PART OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS.
... IF YOU INSIST ON ASKING ME TO DO WHAT I REALLY LIKE ...

HE KNOWS HIS THING.
WHAT A KID ...
HAHA !


THEN, IT'S OK?! DO YOU ACCEPT US AS PART OF YOUR CIRCUS ?!
I'M YOUR PUPPET MASTER, I'M HERE TO OBEY YOU...
BUT IN SPITE OF ALL I SAY ... I'M ALSO A "WOMAN OF THE CIRCUS."

AND I ONLY TAKE ARTISTS IN MY CIRCUS! WHAT CAN YOU DO, KID?!
DON'T WORRY !
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A HOME! WE CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOU!
OUR CIRCUS WENT BANKRUPT! WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING!

IT'S ALWAYS SAID IN THE CIRCUS THAT ...
FHH
OK...
...
HMM

"WE NEVER HAVE ENOUGH VALIANT ARMS AROUND US"

ACT-II: CIRCUS * THE TAMER
CHAPTER ONE "BEAST"

THE BALISHAM CIRCUS!

BLING BLING

CLANG BLONG

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ...

WE'RE HERE TODAY TO WITNESS THE ARRIVAL OF A WORLD FAMOUS CIRCUS...

YES?

MISTER DIRECTOR ...

TODAY WE'LL TRY TO HELP YOU DISCOVER THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE BALISHAM CIRCUS. THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT MADE ON THIS CIRCUS, WHICH IS MAKING ITS NEW TOUR HERE IN JAPAN!

AS YOU CAN SEE ...

THE BIG TOP IS BEING SET UP IN THE BIG PARKING LOT JUST WEST OF THE BREAK-WATER.

I'M TAKING CARE OF EVERY-THING! WE'RE GOING TO UNCOVER HIS CAGE!

HA...

I'M GOING TO PROVE THEY'RE WRONG!

WHAT?! THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!

THE TAMERS TOLD US THAT WE COULDN'T FILM *BEAST*, YOUR TIGER ...

BUT THEY SAY THAT IT'S REALLY TOO RISKY TODAY ...

ACT II : CIRCUS * THE TAMER
CHAPTER ONE
"BEAST"

TAN TAN TAN TAN

NO! WAIT!

LET'S GO, GENTLEMEN ...

TAN TAN

STOP IT! THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

FLAP

WEEHOO!

VROOM

WHAT'S ALL THIS?

HOLY CHRIST ...

GRRRRRR

... BEAST!

HIS NAME COMES FROM A TERRIBLE STORY THAT HAPPENED IN ENGLAND IN 1983. THAT TIGER WAS SO MONSTROUS THAT HE WAS CALLED...

SO, THAT'S THE MONSTER WHO'S MAIMED EIGHT TAMERS?

... WHOAA ...

HE'S GOING TO MAKE A GREAT PUBLIC-ITY FOR US.

COME ON...

STOP IT! YOU MUSTN'T MAKE HIM ANGRY! OTHERWISE...

RRRR

HI HI HI!

DID YOU SEE THAT? THAT BIG CAT CAN BE AS WILD AS HE WANTS. WITH THAT MANY CHAINS, HE WON'T DO ANY HARM!

CRRR

ARRR

SBEE

CRU

ハアハアハアハア

THE ... THE CAGE! IT ...

BLANG

SBLANG

SHAKE

SPOF

BLOOM

SPRAT

TON

CRASH

GRRR
ROC

RUN!
THE TIGER'S
FREE!!

CHUFF

WW

HELLO AGAIN, EVERY-ONE!

NONE OF US KNEW THAT SUCH A TERRIBLE THING HAD JUST HAPPENED...

AFTER THAT, WE WENT TO THE SEASIDE AND PARKED THE VAN THERE TO SLEEP,

AND MISTER NAKAMACHI DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A RADIO...

BECAUSE YESTERDAY, THE DAY WHEN THE TIGER ESCAPED, WE MET THE NA-KAMACHIS...

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT TO PAY BACK OUR DEBTS, WE HAD TO GIVE EVERYTHING!

BOSS! WE'D NEVER DO THAT!

HEY, BOYS... ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T HELP YOURSELVES TO THE CASH-BOX?!

CASHBOX

CLOSE TO A BEACH NEAR THE CITY OF CHIBA.

28330 YEN. THAT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT!

THERE IT IS ...

YES

IT'S REALLY NICE TO BE AT THE SEA DURING THE SUMMER! ISN'T IT, SHIROGANE?

HMM... WE WON'T DO MUCH WITH THIS!

HUM... SORRY...

SHUT UP, BRAT! WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW WE'RE GONNA GET OUT OF THAT SITUATION!

AND YOU'RE JUST HERE, SAYING "IT'S REALLY NICE TO BE AT THE SEA DURING THE SUMMER!"

YES!

STOP BOTHERING MISTER MASARU IMMEDIATELY! OTHERWISE...

BOSS, THAT BRAT'S USELESS! KEEPING HIM WITH US WILL ONLY BRING US BAD LUCK!

HOW PITIFUL! IT'S GREAT TO STILL BE A KID!

YOU HAVE TO KNOW SOMETHING ...

WHAT MATTERS IS FIGURING OUT HOW WE'RE GONNA SURVIVE.

OKAY... I'D LIKE TO KNOW A BIT MORE ABOUT YOU GUYS. BUT FOR NOW...

YOU SAID YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND THE CHILD. DO YOU HAVE THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO DO SO?

Yes, I agree!

Let's keep Shirogane and forget the kid in the forest!

I AGREED TO START A NEW CIRCUS WITH YOU. SO FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE FAMILY TO ME.

LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE FORMALITIES, OKAY...?

FLAP

OF COURSE!

I'VE SAVED THAT MONEY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF MISTER MASARU, AT LEAST FOR SOME TIME.

MUMBLE MUMBLE

IDIOTS! THAT MONEY ISN'T OURS!

YAHAHA!!

YAU OHHHH

HUH?

TAKE IT!

A TRUE ARTIST ONLY EARNS HIS MONEY THROUGH HARD WORK!

HE'S PROUD AND ACCEPTS NO COMPROMISE!

IF THIS IS TRUE, THE MONEY SHOULD BE FAIRLY SHARED BETWEEN ALL OF US...

YOU SAID THAT FROM NOW ON, WE WERE FAMILY, DIDN'T YOU?

OKAY.

BUT, I SHALL GIVE IT BACK TO YOU SOMEDAY!

ALRIGHT ...

I ALMOST DIED SO MANY TIMES BECAUSE OF MY MONEY.

OKAY.

DON'T TELL THEM I'M THE HEIR OF THE SAIGA FAMILY... AND THAT I'M VERY WEALTHY.

...
BUT WE DON'T REALLY KNOW THEM YET.

THE NA-KAMACHIS ARE VERY KIND...

NOW I KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR WHILE DEALING WITH MONEY...

YES?

SHIROGANE ...

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH PEOPLE CAN CHANGE BECAUSE OF MONEY, EITHER. SO...

SIR...

SO... I'M AFRAID.

WITH THAT LITTLE MONEY, THEY'VE ALREADY CHANGED SO MUCH!

GOOD BOY.

SMAC SMAC

MASARU, YOU LITTLE TRICKER! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US SHIROGANE HAD SAVED THAT MUCH MONEY?

...I'LL DO AS YOU WISH.

GRR

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE KEEPS FOR US! WE HAVE TO CAREFULLY SAVE OUR MONEY!

DUMBASSES!

SO, BOSS! WE'RE GOING TO A GOOD RESTAURANT, AND WE'RE GONNA TAKE ROOMS IN A GOOD HOTEL NEARBY?

HE HEEEE

WHAT

ENOUGH! SHUT UP!

BUT, BOSS ...

RIGHT NOW, LET'S GO TO THE CITY TO BUY SOME CAMPING EQUIPMENT!

... LET'S GO!

VROM

COME ON EVERY-BODY, IN THE VAN!

WE HAVE TO BE WISE AND ACT PROPERLY IF WE WANNA SURVIVE!

VROOOM

THAT'S UNFAIR.

HOO (WOOZ

WATCH OUT!!

YES! ARE YOU OK SIR?

ATTACK

CLAC

HEY! ARE YOU OK?!

TAN TAN

SIR

NO... I'M OKAY ...

YES, I'M FINE... WHAT ABOUT YOU, ARE YOU WOUNDED?

OH

PHEW...

RRRP

ARE YOU OKAY, DRUM?!

HUM?

...TAKE ME TO *BEAST!*

AT THAT MOMENT, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT... BUT I WAS GOING TO FIND OUT VERY SOON AFTER.

LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW YOU! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST ASK YOU ...

ACT II: CIRCUS * THE TAMER
PART TWO
"THE LISELOTTE SISTERS"

THIS HUGE TIGER HAS ESCAPED FROM ITS CAGE AT THE BAUSHAM CIRCUS. HE HAS KILLED OR SEVERLY INJURED MANY PEOPLE, 15 THIS MONTH...

HE IS 4.2 METERS LONG. HE'S ORIGINALLY FROM A REGION NEAR THE AMOUR RIVER, A RIVER THAT SEPARATES CHINA FROM SIBERIA. HE IS ALSO CALLED A "KING TIGER."

HIS NAME IS *"BEAST"*

THE POLICE HAVE PUT AN EMERGENCY PROTOCOL IN PLACE ...

THIS IS THE SCENE ...

BEAST IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF 23 PEOPLE...

HE ATTACKED 8 JOUNALISTS BEFORE FLEEING FROM THE PARKING LOT AT THE COAST, WHERE HE WAS HELD AT THE BAUSHAM CIRCUS.

WHOA... THAT'S SO...!

A LARGE NUMBER HAVE BEEN SENT TO FIND THE BEAST...

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN SPREAD OUT IN A LARGE AREA AROUND THE PARKING LOT, AND HUNTERS HAVE BEEN POSITIONED AROUND THE BORDERS..

I-I HOPE W-WE'RE FAR ENOUGH F-FROM THE CIRCUS...! I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

THIS IS TERRIBLE! I HOPE THAT AWFUL BEAST DOESN'T COME HERE!

WE HAVEN'T LISTENING TO THE RADIO...

SO...

WE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ABOUT IT!

NORMALLY, THE TIGER SEEKS ITS PREY AT NIGHT. HE CAN TRAVEL MORE THAN 80 KILOMETERS IN THAT TIME...

HIS RANGE OF ACTIVITY IS PROBABLY AROUND 3 TO 400 SQUARE KILOMETERS!

IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE HE ESCAPED. THEREFORE, HE COULD BE WITHIN THIS AREA ...

FLAP

TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT *BEAST* IS NEAR US...

WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT SHE'S PRETTY...

I DON'T KNOW... BUT, PUTTING THAT ASIDE, SHE'S REALLY CUTE!

IS SHE A FOR-EIGNER?

...WE WILL LOOK TO *DRUM*. IF HE'S CALM, WE HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

WHAAAT !? A LION !?

I STRESSED MY DRIVER SO MUCH, HE HAD BEEN HURRYING TO MAKE IT. BUT, HE WENT A BIT TOO FAST...

NOW, I NEED YOUR HELP ...

SAH

I WAS IN AMERICA WHEN I HEARD THAT *BEAST* HAD ESCAPED...

I CAME TO JAPAN IMMEDIATELY WITH MY LION, *DRUM*.

PLEASE! ...TAKE ME TO WHEREVER *BEAST* WAS LAST SEEN!

AH, THAT'S GREAT!

HE'S JUST TAKEN A HARD KNOCK... AFTER A NIGHT OF REST, HE'LL BE BACK ON HIS FEET.

WHAT WILL YOU DO ONCE YOU'VE FOUND THE TIGER?

IT WAS DANGEROUS TO RUN THROUGH A RED LIGHT LIKE THAT...

...WILL KILL HIM!

DRUM...

FOR THAT, LITTLE LADY, YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE! I DON'T HAVE THE TIME NOR INTENT TO BRING MYSELF INTO SUCH A COMPLICATED MATTER.

EXCUSE ME, BUT... I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DRIVE THIS HUGE TRUCK ALONE ...

...

SCRATCH SCRATCH

GOT IT!

NORI! HIRO! WE'RE TAKING THE DRIVER TO THE HOSPITAL!

GET GOING!

MISS, WHY DON'T YOU GO FIND THE POLICE?

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE'LL EAT TOMORROW! SO, WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO WASTE ON YOUR STORY.

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU NEED TO KILL THIS TIGER WITH THE HELP OF YOUR LION... BUT, AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED,

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

I CAN'T GO SEE THE POLICE!

I BROUGHT *DRUM* INTO THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT ASK-ING OFFICIAL PERMISSION ...

ZAN

SAY, BOSS! YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO HELP A YOUNG GIRL IN NEED!?

...YOU BRAT!

WHAT!? YOU WOULD ORDER ME AROUND?

PLEASE TAKE HER...

WHADDYA WANT?

SO!? WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THIS!?

...LET A GIRL DOWN ...

BUT YOU, A MAN OF HONOR, WOULD ...

MR. NAKAMACHI... THE CIRCUS IS CERTAINLY THERE TO ENTERTAIN THE MASSES ...

HMPH

DON'T YOU THINK THAT IF THOSE PEOPLE KNEW IT, THEY COULD KEEP WATCHING WITH JOY IN THEIR HEARTS?

...A HUGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO MAY SOMEDAY BE YOUR SPECTATORS!

YOU'RE CHOOSING TO ABANDON SOMEONE WHO MIGHT HELP...

SHUT UP, MORONS!

LET'S GO!

BOSS, IT'S DECIDED!

SHIRO-GANE ...

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP...

IF YOU WOULD LET ME, SIR...

AOWWRRA

... FINE ...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOUR NAME IS!

EXCUSE ME...

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE'RE GOING BACK INTO THE FRYING PAN!!

RRROWW

VRROOMM

OH, YES! HOW'D YOU...

YOU'RE ONE OF THE LISELOTTE SISTERS, AREN'T YOU?

OH, FORGIVE ME! I'M...

I CAN REMEMBER IT PERFECTLY... AT THE GREAT LONG CIRCUS IN AMERICA, THERE WERE TWIN LION TAMERS THAT DID THEIR NUMBER IN NURSE COSTUMES ...

SO, YOU ALSO...?

FEW DON'T KNOW THE NAMES OF THE BIG PERFORMERS IN THE WORLD OF THE CIRCUS...

WHY ISN'T YOUR SISTER HERE WITH YOU TO CHASE THE TIGER?

MY FATHER WAS JAPANESE AND MY MOTHER WAS GERMAN. MY MOTHER, MY SISTER, AND I WERE TAMERS IN THE SAME CIRCUS...

IS THAT TRUE? YOU'RE ONE OF THE LISELOTTE SISTERS?

YES... MY REAL NAME IS TARANDA LISELOTTE-TACHIBANA.

HELEN ...

MY SISTER ...

IN FRONT OF ME ...

WAS KILLED IN PLAIN SIGHT ...

SHE WAS KILLED BY BLAST!!

AH, YES...

SO, YOU WANT REVENGE?

YOU'VE SUFFERED A LOT...

OF COURSE NOT!

ME? I WAS SMILING!?

BUT ...

... WHY ARE YOU SMILING ...?

FOR THE MOMENT, THE POLICE ARE LIMITING THEIR SEARCH TO THE MOUNTAINS AND NATURAL PARKS...

GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE BEAST ORIGINATED IN THE DENSE FORESTS OF NORTHERN EUROPE

ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES ...

OKAY... LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT. WHERE SHOULD I TAKE YOU NOW?

A RIVER, YOU SAY? SORRY, BUT... THERE AREN'T ANY RIVERS IN THE AREA NEAR THE COAST!

ROADMAP

BEAST USED TO LIKE SWIMMING A LOT ...

TIGERS LIVE IN FORESTS, BUT ALSO NEAR RIVERS...

DO YOU WANT US TO TAKE YOU INTO THE MOUNTAINS?

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, YOUNG MASTER?

MM ...

HMM

TIGERS REALLY LIKE TO SWIM?

HUH?

SOS

YEAH! THERE ARE...

THAT'S IT! AT MOST SCHOOLS ...

WHADDYA MEAN, "SCHOOLS !?"

THE SCHOOLS!

!

POOLS!

1 2 3 4 5 6

BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE ESCAPED TIGER?

HEY TAKEHIKO! WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME FUN IN THE POOL?

POLICE

FOR NOW, STAY IN YOUR HOUSES! CLOSE YOUR DOORS SECURELY, AND DON'T LEAVE UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTION!

YEAH!

ANYWAY, IT'S WAY TOO HOT FOR ME!

1 2 3 4

PLUS, THEY ONLY COME OUT AT NIGHT!

IDIOT! TIGERS DON'T SWIM, I KNOW THAT MUCH!

GRRR

GUNK

WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO STOP...

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! WE'RE NEXT TO A SCHOOL THAT'S SO CLOSE TO WHERE *BEAST* ESCAPED FROM!

THE POLICE!

VRROOM

RMMM

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? YOU HAVEN'T LISTENED TO THE RADIO AT ALL?

A TIGER ESCAPED FROM THE CIRCUS! ALL THE ROADS ARE BLOCKED ...

WHAT'S WITH THE BLOCK-ADE?

GRRRR

LISTEN, WE NEED TO DELIVER SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT ...

SORRY ...

HE'S TRYING TO TELL ME BEAST IS NEARBY!

HINO

IS THAT THE TIGER!?

NO! THAT'S DRUM!

ZAH

ZAH

DAMN!

WE GOTTA GO!

VVOH

I'M LEAVING, YOUNG MASTER!

SHIRO-GANE!

BRROOM

STOP !!

IT'S OVER THERE!

BROOM

ARLEQUIN
!!

1

2

3

4

ACT II: CIRCUS * THE TAMER
PART THREE

"DRUM THE LION"

THE SWORD OF SAINT GEORGE !!

CAREFUL, SHIRO-GANE!

CLIC

CLIC

HE FOUND OUT HOW TO AVOID MY ATTACK... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ALREADY IN MOTION!

SLIC

CRAAA

SHIRO-GANE!!

DON

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

GET MOVING!

DAAH

SBLOW

PROTECT THE KIDS...! NOW!

RRR

WHY AREN'T YOU WAITING IN THE TRUCK?

IDIOT!

MR. NAKAMACHI! COME ON!

WOW

SSSSH

I HAVE TO HOLD THIS TIGER BACK AS LONG AS POSSIBLE ...

CLIC CLIC

BOM

BOM

BOM

BOM

HE'S SO FAST THAT I CAN'T PREDICT HIS MOVE-MENTS.

IN-CRED-IBLE!

WOOM

GUH!

SLAN

I THINK HE UNDERSTANDS PERFECTLY THAT I'M CONTROLLING ARLEQUIN!

AND ALSO...

BAM

...

...

!!

JAN JAN JAN

YOUNG MASTER! BEAST IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR YOU!

SCLAC!!

GET IN SYNC WITH HIM!

NO, DRUM! YOU DON'T NEED TO KILL HIM!

GRRAH

...TARAN-DA!!

POW

GRUAH

PUNC-TURE!

HOW IS HE GOING TO DEFEAT *BEAST* IF HE DOESN'T GO NEAR HIM?

THAT'S INCREDIBLE! IT SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S SAYING...

GRRRRR

GRAOR

UH ...

BEAST LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY SCARED OF DRUM'S TAIL... CAN YOU TELL WHY?

FHA

HUH?

DRUM IS ALSO SUCH A LEGENDARY ANIMAL!

AS BEAST IS AN INFAMOUS MAN-EATER ...

IN HIS TAIL IS A SHARP NEEDLE.

AT THE END OF ITS TAIL, THERE WAS A POISONOUS NEEDLE.

IT'S LIKE THE LEGEND-ARY BULL IN SPAIN...

THERE'S ... A NEEDLE ... IN HIS TAIL!?

THE GREATEST SHOW

GREAT LONG CIRCUS

IT WAS MY SISTER WHO FIRST NOTICED THIS STRANGE FACT.

SO, THAT'S WHY *BEAST* GOT SCARED...

WE NOW HAVE A "MAN-EATING TIGER" AND "THE DEVIL'S LION!"

IT'S SOMETHING THAT WE CAN PUT AT THE FRONT OF THE SHOW, TO BETTER "SELL" OUR PERFOR-MANCE.

WOW... EXACTLY LIKE THE SPANISH LEGEND!

LOOK, TARANDA! THERE'S A HIDDEN NEEDLE AT THE TIP OF *DRUM'S* TAIL!

IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO INTRO-DUCE *DRUM* AT A TIME LIKE THIS ...

SHUT UP! BE HAPPY DOING WHAT I TELL YOU OBEDIENTLY!

SLAP

UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE NO LIFE WITHOUT ME...

GRR

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO WORK WITH ANY ANIMAL OTHER THAN DRUM!

WE'RE TWIN SISTERS, BUT OUR PERSONALITIES ARE TOTAL OPPOSITES!

DEAR SISTER !!

TARANDA ...

FORGIVE ME... I'M SORRY...

...TAKE REVENGE...
...ON BEAST...
...TARANDA...
...YOU MUST AVENGE ME...
IN FRONT, DRUM!
...ON BEAST!!!
...TAKE REVENGE...
...YOU MUST...
RRRAOOR
VSCHH

YEAH, THAT'S IT! DRUM TOOK BEAST DOWN!

ALL RIGHT, DRUM!

THE TIGER HAS BEEN FOUND IN A POOL! WE NEED REINFORCE-MENTS!

POLICE

VROM VROM

I HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR TROU-BLES ...

TAN

WELL THEN!

WE'RE HERE, PRO-FES-SOR.

WE NEED UNITS 3 AND 5, WITH A SPECIAL FORCES SQUAD!

AH YES?

WE NEED THE HELP OF SOMEONE LIKE YOU ...

PROFESSOR, I ASSURE YOU, THIS TIGER IS OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

I'M A WELL-KNOWN ZOOLOGIST, SPECIALIZING IN FEROCIOUS BEASTS...

AND ODDLY, YOU CALLED ME BECAUSE A POOR TIGER ESCAPED FROM A CIRCUS!

A SIMPLE TIGER ES-CAPES, AND HERE EVERY-ONE JUST PANICS!

PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ALWAYS EXAGGER-ATE...

SBAM

DAN

DAN

MOREOVER, YOU TOLD ME THAT HE ESCAPED BY BREAKING THE BARS OF HIS CAGE...

WE'RE THERE NOW ...

IT'S TOTALLY FAR-FETCHED!

THAT COULD NEVER BE REAL!

I'VE SEEN A HYENA PULL ITS CHAIN FROM A BLOCK OF CONCRETE...

THAT'S BULL!

BUT A TIGER THAT DESTROYS A CAGE OF STEEL!?

PRE-PARE YOUR-SELVES !

SCHLAC

THERE IT IS!

CLAC

WHOA...

CLAC

CLAC

POLICE

IZAN

GRRR

AND THE TIGER ... IT'S A REAL MON-STER! HE MUST WEIGH AT LEAST 300 KILO-GRAMS!

WHAT IS A LION DOING HERE!?

A TIGER ... AND A LION!?

BAM

BAM

FIRE !!

DHAK

PLOM

PLOM

PLOM

WE CAN'T STOP IT...

WITH-DRAW!

MY GOD!

ZZLAM

SOK

AAHH !

WATCH OUT!! HE'S GETTING AWAY!!

A TIGER LIKE THIS ... IS UNSTOPPABLE!

..... ITS TRUE MIGHT WHEN IT IS WOUNDED"

"A TIGER SHOWS ...

A HINDU PROVERB SAYS...

THE POLICE ARE OUR ONLY HOPE NOW...

THIS HAS BECOME REALLY SERIOUS ...

NO, I DON'T THINK SO... NOBODY BUT TARANDA CAN STOP IT...

DRUM IS TOO OLD... HE CAN'T DEFEAT *BEAST* ...

I SUSPECTED AS MUCH ...

SAH!

AH!

WE NEED TO SEARCH FOR *BEAST* WITH HER!

WE HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM BY HELICOPTER!

BEAST HAS MANAGED TO ESCAPE AGAIN!!

ACT II: CIRCUS * THE TAMER
PART FOUR

"IN THE SHOPPING CENTER"

A WOUNDED TIGER WILL BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL ...

THIS ONE WILL KILL ANY PERSON WHO MEETS HIM...

IT'S A HINDU PROVERB ...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

"A TIGER SHOWS ITS TRUE FORCE WHEN WOUNDED..."

HE THE MOST OBEDIENT ANIMAL WE HAVE!

YOU HAVEN'T MADE DRUM JUMP THROUGH THIS FLAMING RING!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TARANDA

DEAR LITTLE SISTER!

YOU'RE SO USELESS...

DRUM, WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO JUMP?

YOU LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...

OH...

FORGIVE ME, HELEN!

DRUM.. WHERE'S BEAST?

RRRR

JON

RRRHH

YES, I KNOW... WE NEED TO CATCH UP WITH HIM ...

SAH

DARN IT!

HE GOT AWAY...

AH !

PLOW

LISTEN... AS FOR ME, I WAS JUST ASKED TO DRIVE THE TRUCK THAT HELD THE LION...

WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED HERE?

THAT'S THE TRUTH!

THANK YOU...

WATCH IT!

OH!

BUT ...

I'D SAY THE LION BELONGS TO HER...

WHO IS THAT YOUNG GIRL DRESSED AS A NURSE?

AND YOU, WHO ARE YOU!?

HA HA! THAT GIRL!? A TAMER!?

THAT GIRL WAS A BEAST TAMER AT THE FIRST CIRCUS *BEAST* WAS AT.

I SEE ...

HE'S PROFESSOR MARUKI, A HIGH-UP ZOOLOGIST. WE ASKED FOR HIM TO COME TO GIVE US HIS PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.

HUH!?

GOOD!

EVERYONE IS READY TO TAKE DOWN THE LION.

DON'T TRY TO TEACH ME! I'M A CIRCUS PERFORMER!

YOU PRETENTIOUS FLEA!

POKE

TO TAME A FEROCIOUS BEAST, YOU'D NEED LOTS OF TRAINING! FIRST, START WITH HORSES, THEN CAMELS, THEN ...

eeep!

... GREW UP IN THAT ENVIRONMENT.

MY MOTHER WAS ALREADY A CAT TAMER IN A CIRCUS. HELEN AND I...

MY MOTHER TAUGHT US HOW TO TAME ANIMALS...

EVERYONE THOUGHT WE WERE VERY TALENTED.

...THAT WE WERE NAMED "THE LISELOTTE SISTERS." IT'S JUST A STAGE NAME.

MY MOTHER RESPECTED "SISTER LISELOTTE", A NURSE IN LEIPZIG WHO BECAME A TAMER, SO MUCH...

A LITTLE WHILE AFTER OUR DEBUT ...

OH, REALLY ?

THEN, WE LANDED A CONTRACT WITH A HUGE AMERICAN CIRCUS, WITH THREE STAGES!

IN SPITE OF ALL THAT, WE FOUND HIM QUITE PEACEFUL ...

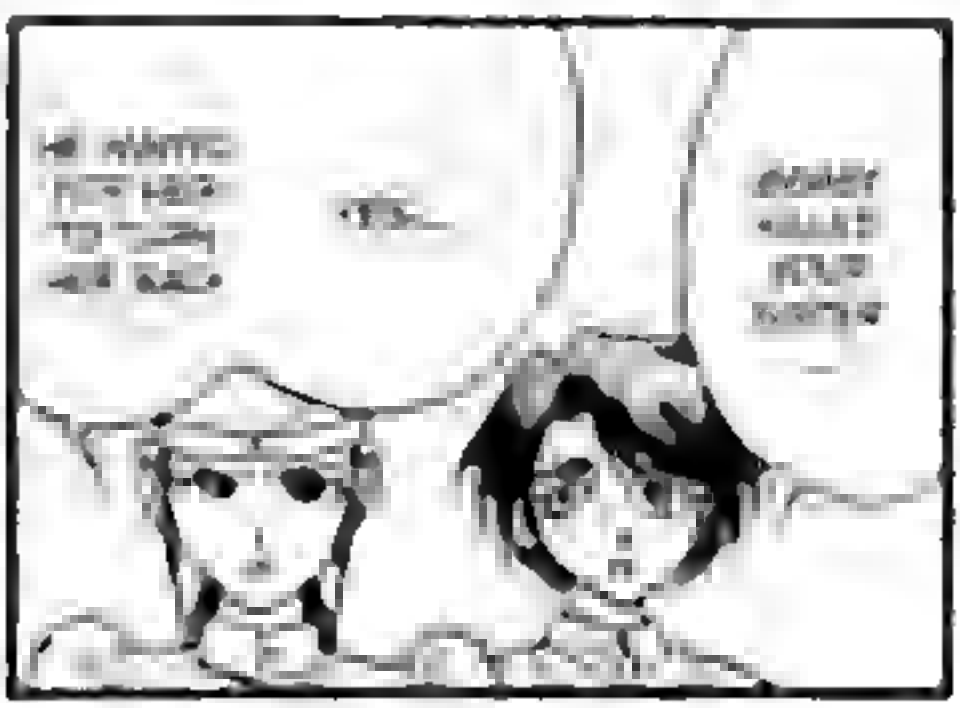
MOST PEOPLE SAID THAT *BEAST* HAD SEVERELY INJURED HIS OLD KEEPERS ...

... BOUGHT *BEAST* FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY ...

... THE CIRCUS ...

BUT ONE DAY, DURING THE SHOW ...

... EVERYTHING FELL APART ...



HM

I.U.C.N.
RED DATA BOOK
E
TIGER
N. W. W
I
C.I.TES
1972 - W
THEY'RE PROTECTED, AND ONE CAN'T JUST DECIDE TO KILL ONE WITHOUT PERMIS-SION...
BUT... ROYAL TIGERS ARE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES ...
THEY REALLY WANTED TO DO THAT...
WHY DIDN'T THE MANAGERS OF THE CIRCUS DECIDE TO PUT HIM TO SLEEP?
THE FACT THAT IT'S TERRIFYING ENTERTAINS PEOPLE...
IN THE WORLD OF THE CIRCUS, YOU NEED TO ATTRACT ATTENTION.
WHY DID THEY WANT TO BUY AN-OTHER DAN-GEROUS TIGER!?
SOME TIME LATER, *BEAST* WAS SOLD TO THE BALISHAM CIRCUS...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WEREN'T SCARED WHEN YOU SAW *DRUM!*
MY NAME IS SHIROGANE. I USED TO BE A CONTORTIONIST AND AN ACRO-BAT.
AH... I UNDER-STAND ...
I KNOW THIS... BE-CAUSE I'VE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE CIRCUS BEFORE.
UNFOR-TUNATELY, I WASN'T FAST ENOUGH TO CAPTURE HIM...
YOUR MARIONETTE IS IMPRESSIVE... IT'S SO EASILY MOBILE, YOU MANAGED TO HOLD BACK *BEAST*...

DRUM

DRUM, CAN'T YOU FIND *BEAST* BY HIS SMELL?

RIGHT!

WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR *BEAST*, NOW!

STOP !!

CLAC

MR. OFFI-CER, SIR!

BUT ... WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME!

WE'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU UNDER A CLOSE WATCH! STATE YOUR BUSINESS!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THAT LION!? ... ANSWER US!!

LISTEN! ...I'D SAY IT'S BETTER TO WORK WITH THE POLICE!

LITTLE BOY, PEOPLE CAN'T JUST WALK FREELY IN THE STREETS WITH SUCH A BEAST!

...WITH THE HELP OF HER LION!

MISS LISELOTTE CAME OVER HERE TO KILL *BEAST*...

NO! WE NEED TO ACT QUICKLY!

FIRST OFF, WE NEED TO CHECK OUT YOUR IDENTITY. THEN, WE'RE GETTING THE CHIEF'S PERMISSION TO...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?

SHE'S GOT THAT RIGHT! WE'RE NOT DONE WITH THAT AWFUL TIGER JUST YET!

AND *DRUM*... WHAT WILL YOU DO TO HIM?

WHY NOT JUST OVER-LOOK THE FORMALITIES FOR NOW? ABOVE ALL, WE NEED TO GATHER SOME INFO. SO, LISTEN TO THE LADY BEFORE YOU JUDGE HER.

NONE OF THIS IS REALLY LEGAL... THERE ARE RULES TO FOLLOW ...

THERE'S A DEADLY NEEDLE IN DRUM'S TAIL! WITH IT, HE CAN FIGHT BEAST!

NO !!

... IS SOLID INFORMATION ON *BEAST* ...

WE'LL NEED TO PUT A MUZZLE ON YOUR LION BEFORE WE TAKE HIM WITH US. WHAT WE NEED...

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
...
LOOK AT HIM! HE'S TOO OLD TO MESS WITH THAT MONSTROUS TIGER! HE WON'T DO ANYTHING FOR US!

HA HA! A NEEDLE!? IN A LION'S TAIL!?

GOH

COME WITH US, MISS.

I DON'T THINK SHE COULD DO ANYTHING ...

THIS ISN'T FAIR... BUT WE HAVE TO LET THE POLICE DO THEIR JOB ...

TARANDA AND HER LION ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN TANGLE WITH *BEAST*; OTHER PEOPLE COULDN'T DEFEAT THAT TIGER...

I'M SURE OF IT!

HMM...

NOBODY BUT HER ...

...CAN DO ANY-THING ABOUT THIS!

IT'S CHOPPER #4!

AND HE'S HEADING INTO A NEIGHBORING SECTOR, AND WE HAVEN'T EVACUATED THE PEOPLE THERE.

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY.. HE'S MOVING QUICKLY...

DA DA DA DA DA

SUR-ROUND THAT AREA !!

WE'RE AT THE SMALL PARK IN THE SECOND QUARTER. THERE ARE NO PEOPLE IN THE AREA...

WE'RE TRACKING THE TIGER'S PATH NOW!

IF WE LET THE TIGER GET OVER THERE, WE'LL RISK HAVING NUMEROUS CASUALTIES!!

YES! WE'VE GOT TO GET THE PEOPLE OUT!

WHAT!? THAT MEANS HE'S HEADED FOR THE MALL DISTRICT!

EH!

OOOO,

I ONLY CAME HERE FOR THAT!

I HAVE TO GO THERE!

I'VE GOT TO KILL THAT TIGER!

STAY WITH US!!

DAN DAN DAN

I DIDN'T COME HERE JUST FOR FUN!

BELIEVE ME! NO ONE BUT US CAN KILL THE BEAST!

LET ME GO! YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING AGAINST BEAST!!

PLEASE MISS!

CALM DOWN!

EVERY-THING'S FINE!

DON'T WORRY, DRUM!

AAH!

GROOAAR

GLOUPS

GRRR

LET ME GO! I HAVE TO FIGHT BEAST!

AS YOU WISH, YOUNG MASTER ...

WE HAVE TO HELP TARANDA ...

SHIRO-GANE .

CRASH

LOOK OUT!

EEH!? WHAT THE HECK IS THAT!?

IT'S YOUR MOVE, TARANDA! YOU CAN GO NOW!

AH!

OW!

STAY HERE !!

GO!

...THANK YOU...

GA AM

HUH !?

OBVIOUSLY, SHE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE TIGER THAN ALL OF US COMBINED!

LET HER GO!

ARGH !

GOH

GOH

AND HERE WE GO! I'M GOING STRAIGHT BACK INTO TROUBLE!

DRUM !!

DAN

THANKS ...

I'D RATHER BE THAT GIRL'S ESCORT ...

SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE NEEDS SOMEONE TO GUIDE HER...

DON'T THANK ME!!

THANKS, MR. NAKAMACHI!

OUAAHH

GO, YOUNG MASTER! I'M BUSY HOLDING THEM BACK!

GOT IT!

GO JOIN HER!

FAN

I THINK YOU'RE CAPABLE OF HELPING HER. SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHRUG OFF WHAT'S HOLDING HER DOWN.

HUH?

MISS LISELOTTE HASN'T DISCOVERED HER "TRUE ABILITIES" YET...

UH... OKAY ...

WE'LL RIDE ON *DRUM'S* BACK.

SIT, DRUM!

WE'LL DEFINITELY FIND A WAY...

IT'LL WORK OUT...

THIS WON'T BE EASY, IF THE MALL IS FULL OF PEOPLE...

...

SHOPPING CENTER

GERMANY FEST

ACT II: CIRCUS * THE TAMER

PART FIVE

"ENTER THE STAGE"

GERMA...

Heidi,
Heidi,
Little girl
of the
moun-
tains...

TON TON TON

GRRR

TON TON TON TON TON

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!? BEAST IS HEADED RIGHT FOR THE MALL! AND TODAY, OBVIOUSLY, LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE THERE...

WE CAN'T GET EVERY-ONE TO JUST CALMLY EVACUATE THE PLACE!

THAT'S WHAT HAPPEN-ED WHEN MY SISTER WAS KILLED ...

A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL GET INJURED ...

IF WE FAIL, THE ARRIVAL OF BEAST WILL CAUSE A TERRIBLE PANIC...

OH REALLY ?

I THINK I'VE GOT THE SOLUTION ...

DAN

TELEPHONE

STOP HERE!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

DI DI DI

DA DA DI

PU TUUUUU

ALL THAT IS BEHIND ME NOW! I SHOULD LOOK TO THE FUTURE!

SINCE MASARU IS GONE, I FEEL REVIVED!

HA HAA! LIFE IS BEAUTI-FUL!

CRAC

PAF

MASTER SAIGA... MASTER MASARU IS ON THE PHONE...

BOU

HI, UNCLE ZENJI. I JUST WANNA KNOW SOMETHING. YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT OF THE TOYS AND ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SAIGA GROUP..

RIGHT? I REALLY NEED YOUR HELP

HEE HEE... SO... HAVE YOU FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO FIND A SCHOOL... UH... FAR FROM HERE?

BELIEVE ME! A LOT OF PEOPLE'S LIVES DEPEND ON THIS! I'LL REIMBURSE YOU FOR ALL THE PRODUCTS THAT WILL BE GIVEN OUT!

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING OF ME NOW!?

HUH !?

I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO ORGANIZE THE DISTRIBUTION OF SOME FREE MERCHANDISE, NEXT TO THE MALL AT THE COAST

IF YOU DON'T AGREE ...

ARE YOU KID-DING ME !?

NOW!!

FINE... AT WHAT TIME SHOULD THIS HAPPEN AROUND?

OH NO! NOT THAT!... PLEASE!!

MY DEAR "FATHER..."

I'LL COME BACK TO LIVE WITH YOU...

MOVE IT! WE HAVE TO GET 100 HI-DEF FLAT SCREENS, MODEL 32, TO THE SPORT FIELD AT THE SCHOOL NEXT TO THE MALL!

...ALL RIGHT!

NO, I MEAN ...

FASTER

SAIGA ELECTRONICS FACTORY #3, SEASIDE QUARTER

BUT ... SIR!

SAIGA

THAT BRAT DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS TO ME!

...

...

...

!!!

WHAT!? 100 MULTIFUNCTION CD PLAYERS AND 100 LATEST-MODEL HI-FI MINI-STEREOS!?

SAIGA

SAIGA ELECTRONICS FACTORY #4, SEASIDE QUARTER

MANAGER! ...WHY IS THIS SO URGENT!?

VIDEO GAMES! CUDDLE TOYS! DOLLS! R.C. MODELS!

SAIGA TOYS MERCHANDISE WAREHOUSE, SEASIDE QUARTER

TAKE OUT ALL THE STOCK!

ALL THOSE WHO HAVEN'T HEADED OUT, DO SO AT ONCE!

YOYOTA

ERRO-OM-MMM

WE NEED TO EVACUATE THE MALL AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

GERMANY FEST

POLI

WOOHOO!

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT! THE TIGER WILL BE HERE IN ANOTHER MINUTE!!

ALL THESE RISKS WILL CAUSE A PANIC...

WE SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL ...

DAN BBBA

THEY'RE ALL CALMLY LEAV-ING!

WHA ...?

DEAR CUSTOMERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

LISTEN FOR A SEC... THERE'S AN ANNOUNCE-MENT PLAYING IN THE MALL!

NO... LOOK! THEY ALL SEEM HAPPY!... THEY AREN'T RUNNING FROM THE TIGER YET!

THE EVA-CUATION HAS ALREADY STARTED !?

SO, COME RECEIVE YOUR GIFTS! THERE ARE HI-FI MINI-STEREOS, AND SEVERAL TOP-OF-THE-LINE ELECTRONICS. DON'T FORGET GAMES OF ALL SORTS FOR THE KIDS! BUT BE AWARE THIS OFFER IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 PEOPLE THAT SHOW US WHAT THEY WANT!

THERE ARE GAMES!

LET'S GO!

YIPPEE!

MINI-STER-EOS !?

WE HAVE ORGANIZED A DISTRIBUTION OF FREE PRODUCTS... THE EVENT STARTS RIGHT NOW!

MANY ELECTRONICS, AS WELL AS TOYS, WILL BE OFFERED TO YOU, FREE, BY SAIGA ENTERPRISES.

WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL STAYING INSIDE!

DAN

THANKS TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, EVERYONE WILL LEAVE THE SHOPS!

THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE ON THE PLAYING FIELD OF THE SCHOOL RIGHT NEXT TO THIS MALL.

SOME PEOPLE ...

... HAVE TRIED TO KILL ME ...

TARANDA... I NEED YOU TO KEEP THIS SECRET. I INHERITED A HUGE FORTUNE A WHILE BACK. BUT, BECAUSE OF THAT...

YOU SAID YOU WOULD PAY FOR ALL THAT MERCHANDISE...

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

HE WAS STRONG, AND INCREDIBLY KIND. ALL THE TIME, I NEEDED HIS HELP.

I'VE ESCAPED DEATH SEVERAL TIMES...

BUT, FORTUNATELY, ONE MAN SAVED MY LIFE...

HE'S DEAD BECAUSE OF THAT...

BUT, HE FOUGHT FOR ME... ME, A MERE STRANGER ...

AND HE GOT NOTHING IN RETURN!

I REALLY WANT TO BE LIKE HIM... SO COURAGEOUS, SO CARING...

I UNDER-STAND...

SO...

I USE MY OWN MEANS...

BUT I CAN'T EVEN DO THAT... I'M STILL TOO WEAK!

EVERYTHING HE DID FOR ME, HE USED HIS OWN STRENGTH FOR IT!

I WON'T HESITATE TO GIVE IT ALL AWAY!!

IF I CAN SAVE THE LIFE OF A SINGLE PERSON WITH THAT MONEY,...

I WASN'T ALWAYS RICH... FAR FROM IT...

THIS PROBLEM CAN'T JUST BE SOLVED WITH MONEY...

UNFOR-TUNATELY... IN SPITE OF WHAT I JUST SAID...

AS OF RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST A DEAD WEIGHT...

I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BUT WATCH YOU AND *DRUM* FIGHT *BEAST*...

IT'S USE-LESS TO BE SO VERY RICH...

WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO HELP YOU...

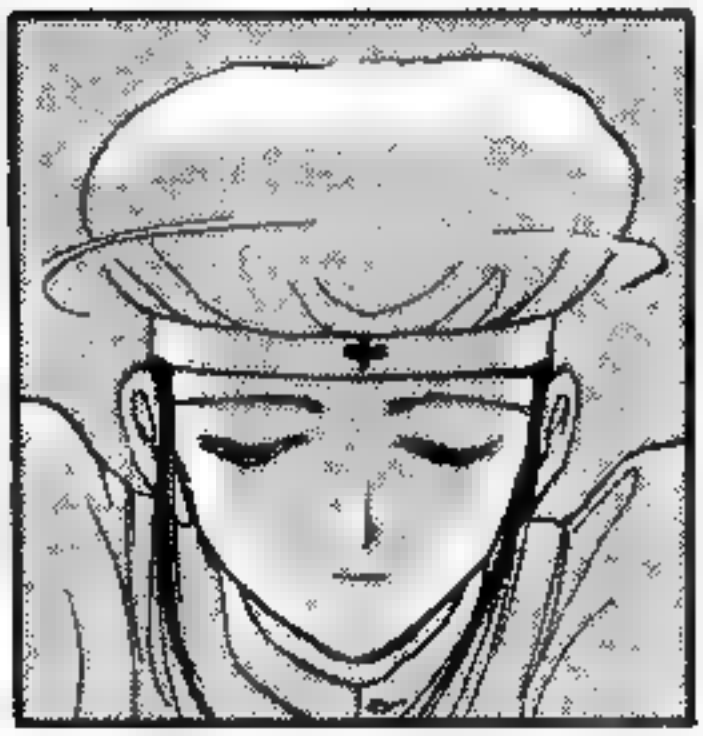
THAT'S WHAT I AM!

TODAY, YOU THINK YOU'RE JUST A SPECTA-TOR...

YOU'RE YOUNG YET. DON'T FEEL GUILTY ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS AROUND YOU.

AND YOU ALREADY HELPED ME FIND HIM...

BUT, YOU ASKED THE OLD MAN TO LET ME COME HERE TO FIGHT *BEAST*...



HOORAY!

BRAVO

A CIRCUS PERFORMER CAN'T SHOW THEIR TRUE TALENT...

UNLESS THEY HAVE SPECTA-TORS!

BEFORE NOW, PEOPLE WOULD ONLY WATCH MY SISTER...

HUH?

YOU KNOW, MASARU... I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU'RE MY FIRST REAL SPECTA-TOR...

I, TOO, WOULD WATCH MY SISTER...

I THINK SHE'S RIGHT!

SHIRGANE TOLD ME THAT TARANDA HAD ANOTHER PER-SONALITY, HIDING HER POWER WITHIN...

TARANDA ...

DAAN

I WONDER WHAT SHE'S THINKING RIGHT NOW...

YOUR IDEA WORKED!

NO-BODY'S THERE ...

TAN

THAT'S IT! WE'RE AT THE MALL!

PHARMACIE

POLICE

SCLAC

DON'T MOVE!

IS *BEAST* ALREADY HERE?

POLICE

QUIET! I HONESTLY HOPE, FOR YOUR SAKE, THAT YOUR LION IS AT LEAST A BIT TAME.

WAIT! WE'RE JUST...

BUT ...

YOU'RE THE GIRL LOOKING FOR *BEAST* WITH A LION... WE WERE WARNED OF YOU COMING HERE...

RRROOMM

STOP! THE ROAD IS BLOCKED!

A GAS TANKER?

IT'S BEAST!

VROOM

NISSAN DIESEL

DANGER

LOOK OUT!

SBRAAA

ESSENCE

ESSENCE

DANGER

30% OFF

VROM

SBLAM

GET EVERY-ONE OUT!

CRRAC

BROM

BE ALERT! THE TANKER COULD CATCH ON FIRE!

CALL THE FIRE SQUAD!

ESSENCE

VHHH

MASARU ... GET BEHIND *DRUM.*

THE RISKS COULD BECOME TOO GREAT FOR YOU... STAY OUTSIDE, OKAY?

RRRH

THANKS, MASARU, BUT...FROM NOW ON, I HAVE TO TAKE THE STAGE... ALONE!

TARANDA, I WANT TO HELP!

YOU CAN WATCH US FROM OUTSIDE ...

DRUM AND I INTEND TO BE FREE OF BEAST...

FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE.

THANKS ...

TAN

OKAY ...

GOT IT...

ENCE

YOU'RE MY LAST SPECTA-TOR.

SHE'S READY-TO DIE IN THIS BATTLE, IF NEED BE!

I GET IT!!

WHAT DOES THAT REMARK ...

THE LAST!? WHY!?

I THANK YOU FOR ACCOMPANYING ME UP UNTIL NOW, TO AVENGE HER...

WHEN MY SISTER DIED, YOU BECAME QUITE SAD, *DRUM*...

IT WAS HER THAT YOU LOVED MOST, RIGHT?

I'LL GIVE YOU THE REVENGE YOU'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR, EVER SINCE THE DAY THAT MY SISTER DIED...

TODAY...

GO FOR IT, DRUM!!

IF IT CATCHES FIRE, IT'LL CAUSE AN ENOR-MOUS EXPLO-SION!

GET AWAY FROM THE TRUCK!

BEAST HAS GONE INTO THE MALL!

CENTER

ESSENCE

ACT III: CIRCUS * THE TAMER
PART SIX

"TARANDA LISELOTTE"

"YOU'RE MY LAST SPECTATOR..." BUT I...

TARANDA TOLD ME ...

...I DON'T WANT HER TO SACRIFICE HERSELF!

ROAR

DRUMI ROLL HIM UNDER YOU AND ATTACK WITH YOUR CLAWS!

GRRROOH

CLAW

GRASH

NOW, USE THAT NEEDLE!

GOOD!

BO

SPA

ZN

SO, THAT GIRL REALLY FOLLOWED THE TIGER INSIDE!

OOH!

THE YOUNG GIRL CHASING HIM HAS GONE IN AS WELL.

BEAST HAS GONE INTO THE MALL

PIN PON

VROOM

THAT "*DRUM*" HAS NO LESS THAN 15 YEARS ON HIM! SURE, HE'S LIVED IN CAPTIVITY. BUT, ON A HUMAN SCALE, THAT'S MORE LIKE 50 YEARS!

THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF A LION IS NORMALLY 15 YEARS. IT CAN GO UP TO 25 IF THE BEAST ALWAYS LIVES IN CAPTIVITY...

OH REALLY!? AND I TOLD YOU HER OLD LION WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAT *BEAST*!!

ARE YOU BLIND, OR WHAT!? WE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT SHE ONLY CAME TO JAPAN TO AVENGE HER SISTER... BY KILLING THAT TIGER!

...

HOWEVER, IN THE FRENCH CIRCUS WHERE I PREFORMED, THERE WAS A LION THAT DOMINATED EVERY TIGER, AND HE WAS OLDER THAN *DRUM* ...

HE CAN'T DO MUCH TO *BEAST*, WHO IS LIKE A YOUNG MAN OF 20!

...

THE CAPABILITIES OF A BEAST DEPEND PRIMARILY ON THE TAMERS' ABILITY... DOES IT NOT?

I HEARD THAT MEN TAMED LIONS IN THE SHOWS THAT DEFINED THE CIRCUS FOR QUITE A WHILE.

A LION, WHICH NATURALLY TAKES LEADERSHIP OF A GROUP AND HAS A WELL-KEPT TEMPER, WOULDN'T WANT TO PICK A FIGHT WITH A TIGER THAT ALMOST ALWAYS WALKS ALONE!

MOREOVER, THE CHANCES OF SUCH BEASTS FIGHTING DEPENDS ONLY ON HOWEVER LONG THEY HAVE LIVED IN CAPTIVITY...

HERE, FOR YOUR PLEASURE, ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE FAMOUS FIGHTING LIONS OF ANCIENT EGYPT...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ...

BLA

HUH!? WHAT!?

I ALREADY TOLD YOU! I WANT TO SHOW THESE FOOLS THE TRUTH!

BLA

WHY DO WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE MALL?

PROFES-SOR! HE HELPED THE GIRL GET AWAY!

HE HE

YOU'RE GOING TO SEE REAL EXPER-TISE, YOU BUNCH OF AMATEURS!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... WE WERE ASKED TO BRING AN ANIMAL SPECIALIST OVER...

IF MY WISH ISN'T GRANTED, LET ME OFF HERE.

MISS LISELOTTE AND *DRUM* WILL BRING *BEAST'S* END... I HONESTLY THINK SO.

MY NOSE!

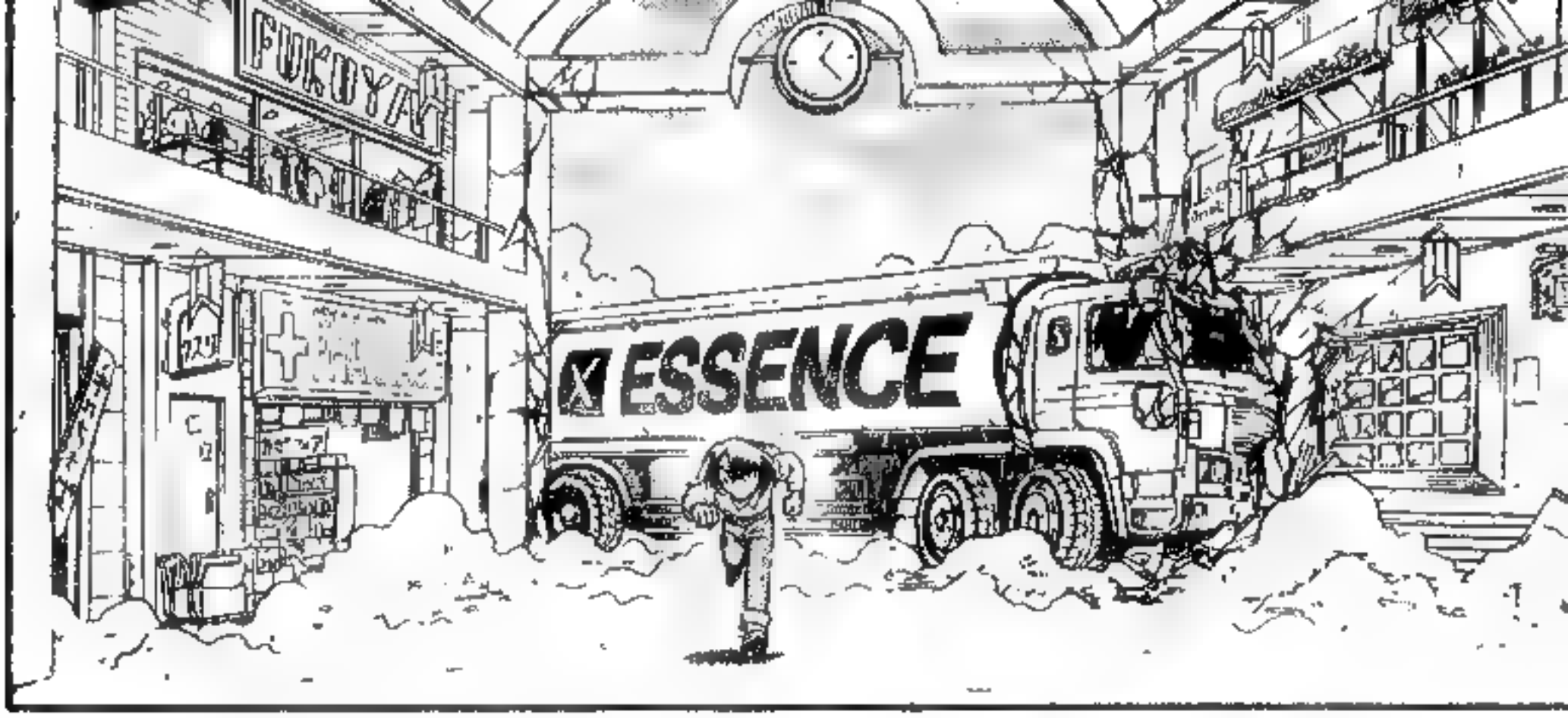
I'LL WATCH CLOSELY. COUNT ON IT!!

UH...

MIRACLES ALWAYS HAPPEN!

ME, TOO! IN THE CIRCUS...

BAM


FUKUYA
ESSENCE

THAT DRUM WILL HIT HIM WITH HIS NEEDLE !?
HOW IS IT...

COULDN'T TAKE DOWN BEAST...
TARANDA HAD TO UNDER-STAND THAT DRUM ...

...DIVERT BEAST'S ATTENTION, JUST FOR AN INSTANT!
YOU'D NEED TO...

HE CAN USE TO BRING BEAST DOWN!
IT'S THE ONLY WEAPON ...

AND FOR THAT ...
... YES!

I KNOW WHAT TARANDA WILL TRY TO DO!!

SBLOW

I'M SURE THAT HE WOULD HEAD STRAIGHT FOR ME...

IF HE BRINGS DRUM TO THE GROUND ONE MORE TIME, AND IF I ACT AS IF I WAS IN A PANIC...

I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT!

BEAST ...

KYAAAA!

DON'T HESITATE! HIT BEAST WITH THAT NEEDLE!

AT THE RIGHT MOMENT ...

FORGIVE ME, DRUM... YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROTECT ME...

RRRH!!

I MUST FIRST ALLOW BEAST TO TAKE HIS "PREY." THAT'S THE ONLY TIME WHEN A PREDATOR WILL AVERT HIS ATTENTION.

BUT, FOR THAT ...

DA-DAN

...TO MY SISTER...

YOU MAY DO TO ME WHAT YOU DID...

I WON'T RESIST YOU...

YOU CAN EAT ME, BEAST...

...IN THE OTHER WORLD...

I HOPE...

HELEN! BIG SISTER...

YOU WON'T YELL AT ME...

SBLLLLL

MASARU!
...
WHY!?

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY!

DO YOU REALLY WANT DO DIE!?

SBOM

TARANDA ...

I COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING AT ALL!

AFTER ALL, WITHOUT HELEN BY MY SIDE ...

I REALLY HATED MY SISTER!

RRHH

GRRRR

...ALL THE TIME!

SHE PUT HERSELF IN CONTROL AND HIT ME...

I HATED HER BECAUSE SHE WAS TALENTED IN EVERY-THING, AND WAS ALWAYS AT EASE IN ANY SITUATION!

YOU THINK YOU CAN, SOMEHOW WIN THE FAVOR OF THE PUBLIC? POOR FOOL!

YOU HAVEN'T MANAGED TO PULL OFF THAT PYRAMID!

YOU ARE WAY TOO SLOW! YOU SHOULD HAVE PULLED BACK ON THE SECOND BLOW OF THE WHIP!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? THAT'S COMPLETELY USELESS!

SO, AS LONG AS SHE LIVED, I'D BE PATHETIC AND USELESS!!

THE MORE THAT INNER HATRED FOR HER GREW...

THE MORE SHE HIT ME...

CAN'T YOU EVER DO ANYTHING RIGHT!? LISTEN TO ME ATTENTIVELY WHEN I SAY WHAT TO DO!!

"IF SHE WASN'T HERE, PERSECUTING ME... I'D BE COMPLETELY FREE!"

SHE CONTROLLED EVERY PART OF MY LIFE!! BUT, WITHOUT HER, I NEVER WAS ABLE TO DO ANYTHING IMPRESSIVELY!! OR WELL, EVEN!!

DAH

SHE DIED BECAUSE OF ME!

ONE DAY MY WISH FINALLY CAME TO BE

FUL-FILLED

THE PERSON-IFIES ALL THE HATE IN THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!!

A DEMON INCARNATED!

BEAST IS

STILL WATCH ME. AND TELL ME

THE EYES OF MY SISTER

SHE'S DEAD BUT I'M STILL NOT FREE

IT'S ODD ISN'T IT?

TA-RANDA

YOU

...TO AVENGE ME..."

...DO EVERYTHING ...

... YOU MUST ...

"TARANDA ...

SHE DIED IN VAIN, AND I'LL ALWAYS BE HER CAPTIVE UNTIL I'VE DISAPPEARED AS WELL!

ABOVE ALL, JUST BECAUSE I HATE HER...

WE'RE TWIN SISTERS I CAN'T ESCAPE THAT FACE WHICH IS ALSO MY OWN

IN A MIRROR IT'S ALWAYS HER EYES IN THAT REFLEC-TION

MY MOTHER HAS FALLEN ILL...

DRUM IS THE ONLY ONE THAT LISTENS TO ME...

I CAN'T CONTROL THE ANIMALS...

SINCE SHE DIED ...

"ISN'T THAT *TARANDA*?"

"ISN'T THAT RIGHT...

"YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT ME!"

I STILL HEAR MY SISTER...

AND I, I CAN'T PROVE MYSELF IN FRONT OF THE SPECTATORS...

I WANT TO DIE AS WELL!

THAT'S THE REASON WHY I'VE CHASED *BEAST*...

WITHOUT HER, I CAN DO NOTHING ...

... AT ALL ...

HELEN ...

HAD A NATURAL GIFT FOR CONTROLLING ANIMALS... AND PEOPLE TOO.

THAT'S WHAT SHE DID WITH *DRUM* AND ME...

MASARU !?

SO MY SISTER WILL KEEP FIGHTING WITH ME

IN THE NEXT LIFE

CAT

PEOPLE ...

...DON'T HAVE TO BE USED...

FOR ANY REASON!!

BELIEVE ME!

INSTEAD OF LIVING "HUMBLY," WHERE YOU'RE USED LIKE AN OBJECT... IT'S BETTER TO LIVE AN "AWKWARD" LIFE, WHERE YOU'RE ALWAYS FREE!!

TARANDA!! I WILL BE THE ONE TO KILL THAT TIGER!!

PAA-F

C'MERE!

SAY,

YOUR LAST HOUR HAS COME!

HEY, BEAST!

MASARU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!?

WOOM

ZZA!

COME ON, BEAST!

ACT III: CIRCUS * THE TAMER : PART SEVEN

"THE SHOW OF FLAMES"

PEOPLE ARE BEING MANIPULATED BY THINGS THEY CAN'T SEE!

IT'S NOT FAIR!

IT'S NOT FAIR, NARUMI!

ESSENCE

GRRR

SHIROGANE IS A SLAVE TO HER MISSION, WHICH IS TO PROTECT ME...

MY DAD GUIDED ME THROUGH LIFE... AND I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE IT...

AS FOR TARANDA, SHE'S ENSLAVED BY THE DOMINATING SPIRIT OF HER SISTER ...

MASARU! NO!

DAAHH

WHOA!

CLIC

PAAH

LISTEN WELL, BEAST!

I FOR-BID YOU TO MAKE TARANDA SUFFER!

SCHR

ZZN

GO BACK TO HELL!!

BAAH

BOSS

WOOF

WOOF BLAM

BAAAAAM

SPLAT

DOH DOH DOH

MASA-RU!

WHH

DOOHHH

GOH

173

BOOM!

DO DO DO

THE GAS TRUCK BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE HAS EXPLODED!

WATCH OUT!

WE DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

THIS JUST AIN'T FAIR...

MASA-RU!

OH... MY GOD ...

TELL THE FIRE FIGHTERS TO GET HERE AS WELL!

MASTER MASARU ISN'T DEAD...

VHHH

HAHAHA!

OH, YEAH! I WAS TELLING YOU IT WAS ALL OVER FOR 'EM!

NO...

SMACK

Help Police!

TUUUT

I MANAGED TO ESCAPE, ...

WOW! IS BEAST DEAD?

TUUUT

PSCHHAAAH

TARANDA! DRUM! YOU AREN'T HURT?

MASARU !!

ME, I'VE ACCEPTED MY DESTINY! BUT YOU... YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TRY AND FOLLOW ME INTO THE MALL! IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS!

I WAS INSANELY WORRIED, MASARU!

GOOH

I'M YOUR "FIRST SPECTA-TOR..."

DON'T FORGET THAT...

YOU CAN'T DIE, TARANDA ...

A PER-FORMER NEVER WANTS TO FAIL ...

ACT LIKE WE'RE IN THE CIRCUS!

... THE GREAT SHOW OF TARANDA LISELOTTE!

AND I, I CAME TO SEE ...

ANOTHER REASON NOT TO DIE...

AND LEAVE YOUR VIEWERS ALL ALONE!

...IMBECILE!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN...

MY...

...SHOW?

HH

I...
I...

BUT...

DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DIE, HERE AND NOW !!?

TARANDA! BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF! WHAT DO YOU WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!?

"WHEN YOU'RE FACING A PROBLEM, THINK FIRST OF YOUR STRENGTH."

ONE DAY, THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE SAID...

HE NEVER DIES!

BEAST !!

GRRRA

AAA

DA·A·H

AH!

WHAT INCREDIBLE POWER! HE'S STILL ALIVE EVEN AFTER THAT EXPLOSION!

RRRRHHH

MASARU !!

HE'S LOOKING AT ME!

I THINK ...!

I CAN'T SAVE HIM...

I CAN'T GET OVER THERE...

HELEN!

I'M YOUR VERY FIRST SPECTATOR!!

BECAUSE I'M YOUR SPECTA-TOR!

YES! I'M WATCHING YOU, TARANDA!

"I CAME HERE TO SEE...

THE GREAT SHOW OF TARANDA LISELOTTE!!"

WHAT I REALLY WANT... NOW...

I'M... A TAMER!!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MASARU!

SCHLAAAG

KYAA!

BACK OFF!

THAT'S ENOUGH, BEAST!

GRRAH

BACK, BEAST!

TARANDA!

BACK OFF!!!

UH...

...
WHOA
...

RRHH

BEAST IS MOVING AWAY!

BUT... YOU ARE READY TO BETRAY ALL MY VIEWERS ON ANY OCCASION.

YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN MAGNIFI-CENT!

BEAST... I WOULD HAVE REALLY WANTED TO PERFORM A PIECE WITH YOU AND DRUM...

I, TARANDA LISELOTTE...

...I ORDER YOU TO LEAVE THE STAGE!!

KRAAH!

IN FRONT, DRUM!

GRRRR

SCH

LAH

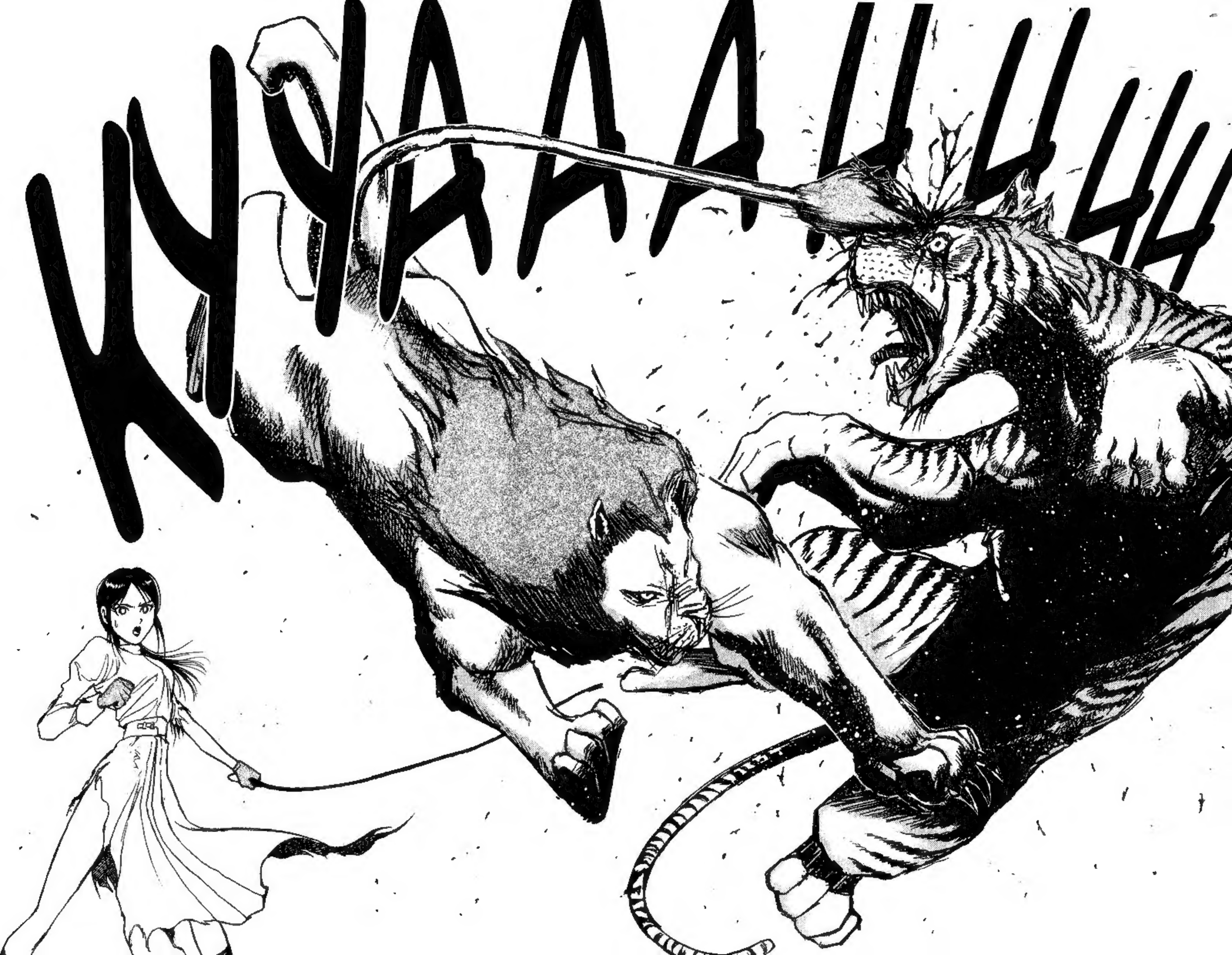
BEAST, STOP!!

CLAAC

DRAH

HOO

DIE


AAAA

BRLO MIOM

ALL RIGHT!

YOU DID IT, TARANDA!!

CLAP CLAP